

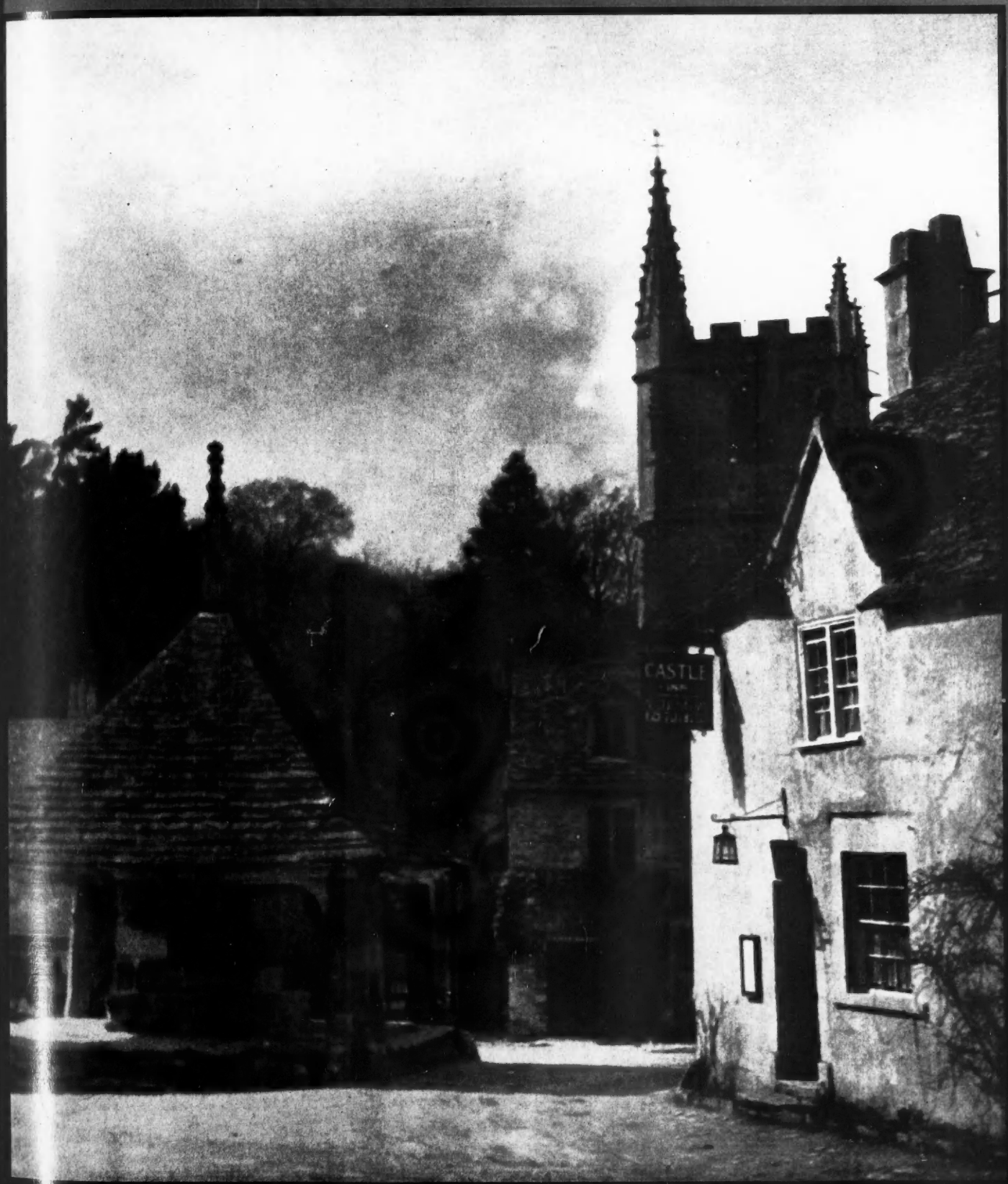
JUL 12 1944

A TRAPPER IN THE FAR NORTH COUNTRY LIFE

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COUNTRY LIFE

VOL. XCV. No. 2471

MAY 26, 1944

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DISCOVE HOUSE, BRUTON

IN THE ROMANTIC HAMLET OF DISCOVE

8 bedrooms, 3 attics, 3 bathrooms, 4 reception rooms, etc.

LOOSE BOXES AND BUILDINGS

TWO COTTAGES

RICH PASTURE FIELDS.

20½ ACRES



MAIN WATER, MAIN ELECTRICITY, CENTRAL HEATING, TELEPHONE. ESSE COOKER.

VACANT POSSESSION (except 1 Cottage)

For SALE by AUCTION (unless previously sold privately) in JUNE by JACKSON STOPS & STAFF

Particulars, 1s. each, from the Auctioneers and Land Agents, Yeovil (Tel. 1066).

Solicitors: Messrs. ROYDS RAWSTORNE & Co., 46, Bedford Square, London, W.C.1.

By Direction of Captain V. M. Wombwell.

NORTH RIDING OF YORKSHIRE

Thirsk 9 miles, Helmsley 8 miles, Easingwold 5 miles.

SEVERAL OUTLYING FARMS OF THE FAMOUS

NEWBURGH PRIORY ESTATE

ACCOMMODATION LAND, ALLOTMENTS IN WASS AND THE VILLAGE OF YEARSLEY, the whole known as

THE YEARSLEY ESTATE

COMPRISING

CLOSE HOUSE FARM	...	203 acres	BOGG HOUSE FARM	...	170 acres
*THORNTON HILL FARM	...	190 "	YEW TREE FARM, YEARSLEY	...	39 "
MANOR HOUSE FARM, YEARSLEY	...	145 "	MANOR FARM, YEARSLEY	...	98 "

*(With vacant possession April, 1945)

3 SMALL HOLDINGS, 9 COTTAGES, 4 ACCOMMODATION ENCLOSURES, 9 ALLOTMENTS AND THE WOMBWELL ARMS,

in all 1,025 ACRES

PRODUCING AN ACTUAL AND ESTIMATED TOTAL RENTAL OF

£1,047 PER ANNUM

Will be OFFERED for SALE by AUCTION in LOTS, but the VILLAGE OF YEARSLEY and its FARMS will first be OFFERED as a WHOLE in ONE BLOCK by Messrs. JACKSON STOPS & STAFF in conjunction with Messrs. R. C. KNIGHT & SONS, at the GOLDEN FLEECE HOTEL, THIRSK on MONDAY, JUNE 19, 1944, at 3 p.m.

Solicitors: Messrs. TITLEY, PAVEN-CROW & FEDDEN, 6, Princes Square, Harrogate (Tel. 2211).

Auctioneers: Messrs. JACKSON STOPS & STAFF, 15, Bond Street, Leeds 1 (Tel. 31269); also at London, Northampton, Cirencester, Yeovil, Dublin, etc. Messrs. R. C. KNIGHT & SONS, 1, Guildhall Street, Cambridge (Tel. 54223).

Land Agent: C. E. MONTGOMERY, Esq., Princes Square, Harrogate (Tel. 4800).

Grosvenor 3121
(3 lines).

WINKWORTH & CO.

48, CURZON ST., MAYFAIR, LONDON, W.1.

SUSSEX

Main Line Station 1½ miles.



A GEORGIAN RESIDENCE

10 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 3 reception rooms, excellent domestic offices. Electric light. Partial central heating. Fitted basins (h. & c.) in some rooms.

STABLING. GARAGE. COTTAGE.

ATTRACTIVE GARDENS AND GROUNDS with lawns, orchard, kitchen garden, paddocks, etc.

IN ALL 21 ACRES

FREEHOLD FOR SALE

Owner's Agents: WINKWORTH & Co., 48, Curzon Street, London, W.1.

EAST SUSSEX

FOR SALE A CHOICE RESIDENTIAL ESTATE OF 152 ACRES

WITH MODERATE-SIZED MANSION

Stands on high ground with magnificent views.

11 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 5 reception rooms, and convenient domestic offices. Main electric light. Stabling. 2 Lodges. Groom's quarters.

THE ENTIRE HOUSE HAS BEEN MODERNISED RECENTLY

The grounds are ornamented by magnificent timber, cut yews, and a choice selection of flowering shrubs of which the Rhododendrons are a feature. Tennis and croquet lawns, woodlands and shrubbery walks, herbaceous borders, excellent walled kitchen gardens, greenhouses, orchards. Parkland.

THE WHOLE PROPERTY EXTENDS TO 152 ACRES

FREEHOLD FOR SALE

Personally inspected and recommended by the Agents: Messrs. WINKWORTH & Co., 48, Curzon Street, Mayfair, London, W.1.

KNIGHT, FRANK & RUTLEY

SURREY (SUSSEX BORDER)

In a very accessible situation, midway between London and the South Coast and equidistant about 2½ miles from Crawley and Horley.

Under a mile from Gatwick Airport Station.

AN ATTRACTIVE FREEHOLD RESIDENTIAL AND AGRICULTURAL PROPERTY

ROWLEY FARM, LOWFIELD HEATH - - - - - About 108 ACRES



ROWLEY FARM, EAST FRONT.

The delightful old half-timbered House is believed to date from the Sixteenth Century or earlier with much oakwork and some panelling.

It has been carefully restored and adapted to modern requirements and contains a galleried drawing-room, 3 other reception rooms, 9 bedrooms and 4 bathrooms.

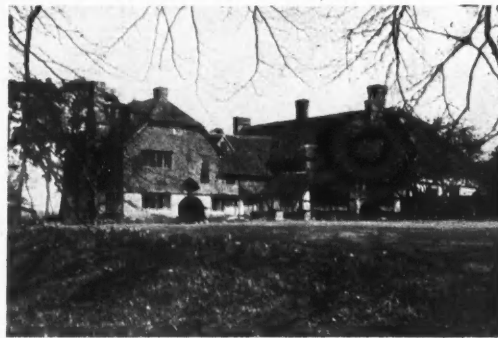
ELECTRIC LIGHT

COMPANY'S WATER

CENTRAL HEATING

INFORMAL GARDENS WITH TENNIS COURT AND ORCHARD.

FARM BUILDINGS for a small Dairy Herd, including capital cow-house for 20, 4 excellent Cottages, including a modern detached 6-roomed Cottage with bath, etc.



ROWLEY FARM, SOUTH-WEST FRONT.

THE LAND is principally pasture with a small area of woodland, and the whole property is at present let on a single tenancy at a pre-war rental of £300 per annum. **FOR SALE BY AUCTION, in One Lot, at 20, HANOVER SQUARE, W.1, on WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7, at 2.30 p.m. (unless disposed of privately).**

Solicitors: Messrs. Petch & Co., 42, Bedford Row, W.C.1. Land Agents: Messrs. Pink & Arnold, Westgate Chambers, Winchester.

Auctioneers: Messrs. KNIGHT, FRANK & RUTLEY, 20, Hanover Square, W.1. Particulars and Plan, 1s. per copy.

PEDIGREE STOCK AND ATTESTED T.T. FARM OF NEARLY 250 ACRES MONMOUTHSHIRE 1½ Miles from a Town and Station

GEORGIAN HOUSE with 3 reception rooms, billiard room, 7 bedrooms (5 with basins), 4 bathrooms. South aspect, fine views.

Central heating. Electric light. Stabling for 8 horses. Garage for 4 cars. Lodge and 3 Cottages.

Farm buildings including accommodation for 100 cows; attested cowsheds, 8 loose boxes, calving pens, safety bull pen, etc.



Part of the land is in rich valley and part healthy slopes on which the stock thrives all the year round. Good corn-growing land, red loam soil.

FOR SALE WITH POSSESSION IN OCTOBER

Hunting. Shooting. Golf.

Agents: Messrs. **KNIGHT, FRANK & RUTLEY**, 20, Hanover Square, W.1. (15,432)

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(10 lines)

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Telegrams:
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NICHOLAS

(Established 1882)

1, STATION ROAD, READING; 4, ALBANY COURT YARD, PICCADILLY, W.1

Telegrams:
"Nicholson, Piccy, London."
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PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT

IN THE LOVELIEST PART OF THE COTSWOLDS

THAT WELL KNOWN FREEHOLD RESIDENTIAL, SPORTING AND AGRICULTURAL ESTATE, known as "SEZINCOTE," MORETON-IN-MARSH, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

comprising

A STately MANSION

Seated in a grandly timbered Park, and surrounded by some of the most beautiful gardens in England.

HUNTING STABLING, SQUASH COURT, LODGES AND PREMISES OF ALL DESCRIPTIONS.

THE AGRICULTURAL PORTION comprises

11 CAPITAL DAIRY AND STOCK FARMS WITH FIRST-CLASS RESIDENCES AND BUILDINGS, SMALLHOLDINGS, A NUMBER OF WELL-BUILT COTTAGES AND SMALL RESIDENCES. The Estate is finely timbered and affords first-rate shooting, whilst Hunting can be obtained with several well-known packs.

THE WHOLE CONTAINS ABOUT

2,500 ACRES

LYING IN A RING FENCE, AND PRODUCING A RENT ROLL OF £3,300 PER ANNUM.

The above BEAUTIFUL PROPERTY will be SOLD BY AUCTION at a date shortly to be announced, unless previously

Sold by Private Treaty, by MESSRS. NICHOLAS.

Sale particulars are in course of preparation, and when ready, may be obtained of the Solicitors: MESSRS. SOUTHERN, RITCHIE & SOUTHERN, Midland Bank Chambers, Burnley, Lancs; or the AUCTIONEERS, at their Offices, 4 Albany Court Yard, Piccadilly, W.1; and at Reading.

F. L. MERCER & CO.

SACKVILLE HOUSE, 40, PICCADILLY, W.1

Regent 2481

MIDWAY BETWEEN LONDON AND BRIGHTON

Just South of Reigate.

PICTURESQUE COUNTRY HOUSE, lounge hall, 3 reception, 7 bedrooms (fitted basins), 2 bathrooms. Main services. Garage. Modern farmery. Cottage. Lovely gardens; productive orchards and paddock. 6 ACRES. £6,500 (considerably below pre-war cost).—F. L. MERCER AND CO., Sackville House, 40, Piccadilly, W.1. (Entrance in Sackville Street.) Tel.: Regent 2481.

GLORIOUS SITUATION. HINDHEAD, SURREY

EXCEPTIONALLY ATTRACTIVE, SPLENDIDLY BUILT RESIDENCE, 3 reception, billiard, 7 bedrooms (fitted wash basins), 2 bathrooms. Central heating. Electric light. Garage. Stabling. Cottage. Beautifully landscaped gardens and paddock. 5 ACRES. Post-war possession. £25,000.—F. L. MERCER & CO., Sackville House, 40, Piccadilly, W.1. (Entrance in Sackville Street.) Tel.: Regent 2481.

OMERSET BEAUTY SPOT, NR. WELLS **"HARMING PERIOD COTTAGE"**, well modernised. 2 reception, 3 bedrooms (fitted basins), bath. Main services. Garage. Lovely garden. 1 ACRE. £23,500.—F. L. MERCER & CO., Sackville House, 40, Piccadilly, W.1. (Entrance in Sackville Street.) Tel.: Regent 2481.

EXORS.' BARGAIN

"TWIXT HASLEMERE AND FARNHAM

Overlooking famous Blackdown Hills. Loveliest spot in West Surrey. Panoramic views 35 miles.

BEAUTIFUL ELIZABETHAN-STYLE RESIDENCE

of medium size with inexpensive show gardens. Central heating. Main services. Pretty cottage. Garage and 18 ACRES. £11,500 (about half cost).—Sole Agents: F. L. MERCER & CO., Sackville House, 40, Piccadilly, W.1. (Entrance in Sackville Street.) Tel.: Regent 2481.

GENTLEMAN'S RESIDENCE AND FARM ESSEX AND SUFFOLK BORDERS

30 miles from Coast.

LOVELY OLD PERIOD HOUSE, restored and modernised, perfect order. 2 reception, 5 bedrooms, bath. Oak beams, inglenooks. Pretty entrance lodge, old-world gardens, lawns, tennis court, splendid buildings, and 160 ACRES rich grazing and arable land. £29,500 with possession.—Sole Agents: F. L. MERCER & CO., Sackville House, 40, Piccadilly, W.1. (Entrance in Sackville Street.) Tel.: Regent 2481.

SUPERB POSITION. NORTH DEVON.

PRIVATE TROUT FISHING in well-known river. £8,000 with 68 ACRES including the live and dead stock. Stone-built house, 6 bedrooms (basins), bath, 3 reception rooms. Ample buildings. Near markets. In good order.—F. L. MERCER & CO., Sackville House, 40, Piccadilly, W.1. (Entrance in Sackville Street.) Tel.: Regent 2481.

BETWEEN TUNBRIDGE WELLS AND CRANBROOK

BEAUTIFUL OLD MODERNISED RESIDENCE, 3 reception, 7 bedrooms (fitted basins), 3 bathrooms. Central heating. Main services. 2-car garage. Pretty cottage. Lovely old gardens and 4 ACRES. £8,500.—F. L. MERCER & CO., Sackville House, 40, Piccadilly, W.1. (Entrance in Sackville Street.) Tel.: Regent 2481.

GODSTONE, SURREY WITH VACANT POSSESSION

SUPERIOR RESIDENCE (redecorated inside and out), 3 reception, 5 bedrooms, bath. All mains. Garage. Nice gardens. ½ ACRE. £3,500.—F. L. MERCER AND CO., Sackville House, 40, Piccadilly, W.1. (Entrance in Sackville Street.) Tel.: Regent 2481.



HAMPTON & SONS

6, ARLINGTON STREET, ST. JAMES'S, S.W.1

(Regent 8222, 15 lines)

Telegrams, "Selanlet, Piccy, London"



RURAL ESSEX

On the edge of a Public School village, $\frac{3}{4}$ mile from station, 4 miles Dunmow, 10 miles Chelmsford, 6 miles Braintree.

PICTURESQUE XVth CENTURY RESIDENCE

MODERNISED AND IN EXCELLENT CONDITION



Lounge 31 ft. by 15 ft., 2 reception rooms, 5 bed and dressing rooms, bath-room. Good offices.

All main services.

Central heating.

Outbuildings.

GARAGE

CHARMING GARDEN.

LARGE ORCHARD IN

FULL BEARING.

IN ALL ABOUT

7 ACRES

PRICE FREEHOLD £6,000

A further 6 Acres can be had if required.

Agents: HAMPTON & SONS, LTD., 6, Arlington Street, S.W.1. Tel.: REG. 8222. (M.45,763)

OVERLOOKING SHEEN COMMON AND RICHMOND PARK

Easy reach of the West End and City.

ATTRACTIVE GABLED RESIDENCE



occupying a secluded position.

Oak panelled lounge hall, 3 fine reception rooms, conservatory, 10-12 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Maids' sitting room.

Garage. Stabling.

3 Cottages.

Well-timbered grounds of about

3 ACRES

PRICE FREEHOLD £10,000

VACANT POSSESSION JULY NEXT

Particulars from:

HAMPTON & SONS, LTD., 6, Arlington Street, S.W.1. (Tel.: REG. 8222.)

BRANCH OFFICES: WIMBLEDON COMMON, S.W.19 (WIM. 0081.)

BERKSHIRE

Within easy reach of Newbury and Reading.

A CHOICE MODERN QUEEN ANNE RESIDENCE

in a picked position on the edge of well-known commonslands. With lovely views.

4 reception rooms, 6 principal bed and dressing rooms, Nursery suite, 4 secondary bedrooms. All fitted with basins. 4 bathrooms. Good offices. Aga cooker.

Central heating. Companies' electricity and water.

Garage for 4.

Pretty established gardens. Orchard. Grass and hard tennis courts.

50 ACRES

(including 30 acres woods)

GOOD COTTAGE.



PRICE FREEHOLD £20,000

POSSESSION BY ARRANGEMENT

Full particulars from the Agents: HAMPTON & SONS, LTD., 6, Arlington Street, S.W.1. (Tel.: REG. 8222.) (B.30,937)

RURAL SUFFOLK

About $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Saxmundham. Near pretty village. Good sporting district.

ATTRACTIVE MODERN RESIDENCE

NICELY SITUATED

Lounge hall, 4 reception rooms, 6 principal bedrooms, servants' bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, staff sitting room and offices.

Main electricity. Water pumped electrically. Modern drainage.

Garage. Farm buildings. Cottage.

Fine gardens designed by a well-known landscape gardener.

Rock and water garden.

Productive kitchen garden.

Orchard.

Paddocks and about 40 acres under cultivation.

53 ACRES IN ALL

Price Freehold £7,000



FOR POST-WAR OCCUPATION

Particulars from:

HAMPTON & SONS, LTD., 6, Arlington Street, S.W.1. (Tel.: REG. 8222.)

(E.30,592)

BISHOP'S STORTFORD (E43).

CLASSIFIED PROPERTIES

(1/6 per line. Min. 3 lines.)

AUCTIONS

With Vacant Possession.

STARSTON, NORFOLK

3 miles Harleston, 15 miles Norwich. STARSTON HALL FARM, productive Residential Farm, 256 acres excellent mixed soil (including 56 acres pasture). Fine red brick Farmhouse, substantial Agricultural Premises (in a first-rate state of repair and with Cowhouses for 25). 4 modern Cottages. For SALE BY AUCTION at the ROYAL HOTEL, NORWICH, on SATURDAY, JUNE 3, at 12.30 p.m., by

H. G. APHORPE

by instructions of Captain C. E. Young. Particulars from Messrs. LYUS, BURNE AND LYUS, Solicitors, Diss; or Auctioneer's Office, Diss, Norfolk.

By instructions of the Trustees of the late Lord Ribblesdale.

VALUABLE AGRICULTURAL AND SPORTING ESTATE, FULLY LICENSED HOTEL AND RESIDENCES.

RIBBLE VALLEY

In the Parish of Gisburn, Yorkshire. SALISBURY & HAMER, F.A.I. will offer for SALE BY AUCTION in ONE or MORE LOTS (unless previously SOLD by PRIVATE TREATY) at the SWAN AND ROYAL HOTEL, CLITHEROE, on THURSDAY, JUNE 8, 1944, at 2.30 o'clock in the afternoon, subject to the Law Society's Conditions of Sale and to such Special Conditions to be then and there produced, the GIBBURN PARK ESTATE, Gisburn, Yorkshire, containing 2,554 ACRES or thereabouts of Valuable Agricultural Land. ANNUAL RENT ROLL £3,889. (The Mansion and other Properties including the Valuable Woodlands being in hand.) Included in the Estate is THE FINE OLD MANSION, 15 DAIRY FARMS and ACCOMMODATION LANDS, also the FULLY LICENSED HOTEL known as THE RIBBLESDALE ARMS (lease expires August 31, 1944), 9 DWELLING-HOUSES and the VALUABLE GROWING TIMBER, SHOOTING, FISHING and WATER RIGHTS.

Printed Particulars (2s. each) and cards to view may be obtained from the Auctioneers, 50, Ainsworth Street, Blackburn (Tel. 5051), or from A. JOHN D. ROBINSON, Solicitor, Clitheroe Castle, Clitheroe (Tel. 100), and 15, Arundel Street, Strand, W.C.2. (Tel.: Temple Bar 2994).

WEST NORFOLK

Outskirts of Methwold village, on bus route, 6 miles Brandon. THREE HILL HOUSE. Modernised cottage. 3 reception, 6 bed, bath, etc. Coy.'s water. Standing in 3 acres. Vacant possession. AUCTION, BURY ST. EDMUNDS, MAY 31.

Particulars of ARTHUR RUTTER, SONS & CO., Bury St. Edmunds.

AUCTIONS

By direction of the Executor of the late Lt.-Col. the Lord Wynford, D.S.O.

WYNFORD, DORSET

HIGHER WYNFORD FARM, Maiden Newton Junction (G.W.R.) 3 miles, Dorchester 11 miles. 331½ ACRES healthy and productive Dairy, Sheep and Corn Land with Modern Farmhouse, 4 Good Cottages, Modern Cowshed for 36 (accredited standard) and other Good Buildings. Piped water supply. Vacant Possession October 11 next. SALE BY AUCTION (unless previously sold) in ONE LOT, DORCHESTER, SATURDAY, JUNE 10, at 3.30 p.m. Particulars, etc., of SANCTUARY & SON, Chartered Surveyors and Land Agents, Bridport. Tel. 204; Auctioneers, Dorchester (Tel. 426); or of Messrs. WALKER, MARTINEAU & CO., Solicitors, 12, Manson Place, Queen's Gate, S.W.7 (Tel.: Ken. 9287).

By direction of T. C. Miller, Esq., who is retiring

WARWICKSHIRE

The very exceptional and most conveniently situated Freehold Residential Estate, ALVESTON PASTURES, in the Borough of Stratford-on-Avon, comprising 266 Acres of exceedingly well-farmed highly-productive land, including 200 Acres of Rich Old Pastures and Orchard, well watered and full of herbage, well known to be the Most Up-to-date and Best Dairy Farm in the Midlands, and carrying an outstanding herd of highly-bred Attested Ayrshires. The very comprehensive MODEL FARM BUILDINGS, ideally planned for a Pedigree Herd, include a costly demonstration "Gascoigne" Auto-Recorder 6-point Unit, 2 modern Cowsheds for 50 with Beatties Tubular Fittings, with yokes and water bowls, 3 new magnificent Covered Yards, 3 spacious Dutch Barns, and Ranges of 17 Loose Boxes and Calving Pens, all in perfect order. TWO EXCELLENT MODERN COTTAGES on roadside. THE CHARMING PERIOD HOUSE of the seventeenth century has been thoughtfully and carefully modernised, and has 4 reception rooms, labour-saving domestic offices with "Aga" Cooker, 6 bedrooms with 2 dressing rooms, perfectly appointed bathroom; central heating, electric light, telephone, and excellent water supply. This is an ideal Model Dairy Farm of outstanding merit and perfect in every detail, and sold with Vacant Possession. For SALE BY AUCTION (unless sold previously) by

WALKER BARNARD & SON, F.A.I., at the TOWN HALL, SHEEP STREET, STRATFORD-ON-AVON, on FRIDAY, JUNE 9, 1944, at 4 p.m. prompt.

For particulars, with photographs and plan, apply to Messrs. WALKER BARNARD & SON, F.A.I., 46, Sheep Street (adjoining G.P.O.), Stratford-on-Avon (Tel. 2581), through whom appointments to view must be made.

AUCTIONS

DORCHESTER

Well-built and fitted commodious Residence, in this County Town (suit Medical Practitioner), being 35, Cornwall Road, near Boro' Gardens, 3 reception, 4 principal and 3 secondary bedrooms, etc. On SATURDAY, JUNE 3, at PROPERTY SALE ROOM, DORCHESTER. Particulars from

HY. DUKE & SON,

Chartered Surveyors and Auctioneers, Dorchester (Tel. 426), or the Solicitors: Messrs. ANDREWS, SON & HUXTABLE, Dorchester and Weymouth.

EXCHANGE

OFFERED. Charming well-built house, in Herts, 25 miles London. Lounge hall, 2 reception, study, kitchen, scullery, larder, 4 bed, 2 superb tiled bathrooms, linen room, main water and electricity, telephone, central heating, double garage, drive, fuel store, kitchen garden, lawns and woodland, 2 acres, daily help and gardener available. £5,600. Might sell house without cottage in exchange. WANTED—Cottage or Lodge, secluded but not isolated, with 10 to 20 acres, suitable poultry and fruit. Some woodland, greenhouses and outbuildings an advantage. Within 50 miles London (daily reach). Surrey preferred. Tiny farm would suit. About £3,000. Full details with photograph if possible (which will be returned).—Box 954.

WANTED

COUNTRY TOWN within 1½ hours London. Partly Furnished or Unfurnished Bungalow or Semi-bungalow required for three years or longer, on or before September 1. 6-7 rooms minimum. Would consider buying some furniture.—CREASEY, The Shellington, Pinehurst Rd., West Moors, Wimborne, Dorset.

COUNTRY. Wanted by naturalist, Wood Shack or Habitable Derelict Cottage. Must be cheap.—Box 958.

HOME COUNTRIES. Small Cottage wanted, suitable artist. Preferably modernised, with bath and sanitation, although not essential. Within daily reach London. Must have several acres of pasture, and some woodland liked. High price will be paid for suitable property with immediate possession. Details to Box 955.

LOCALITY IMMATERIAL, preferably DEVON, SURREY or HANTS. Naval Officer wishes to purchase Modern House or Cottage, 3-4 beds, if possible complete with furniture.—Box 959.

40 MILES LONDON (within). Small Georgian House situated in a village. Large garden.—Box 957.

ESTATE AGENTS

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BERKS AND BORDERS OF ADJOINING COUNTIES, especially concerned with the Sale of Country Houses and Estates.—Messrs. NICHOLAS, 1, Station Road, Reading, Tel. 441.

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DEVON and S. AND W. COUNTIES.—The only complete illustrated Register (Price 2s. 6d.). Selected lists free.—RIPPON, BOSWELL & CO., F.A.I., Exeter. (Est. 1884.)

HAMPSHIRE and SOUTHERN COUNTIES.—22, Westwood Road, Southampton.—WALLER & KING, F.A.I. Business established over 100 years.

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SHROPSHIRE, border counties and North Wales for residences, farms, etc., write the Principal Agents—HALL, WATERIDGE AND OWEN, LTD., Shrewsbury. (Tel. 2081.)

SUFFOLK AND EASTERN COUNTIES. WOODCOCK & SON, Estate Agents, Surveyors, Valuers and Auctioneers. SPECIALISTS IN COUNTRY PROPERTIES. (Tel.: Ipswich 4334.)

SUSSEX, SURREY, HAMPSHIRE and KENT. To buy or sell a Country Estate, House or Cottage in these counties, consult A. T. UNDERWOOD & CO., Three Bridges, Sussex (Crawley 528), amalgamated with JOHN DOWLER & CO., Petersfield, Hants (Petersfield 359).

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CHAMBERLAIN-BROTHERS & HARRISON of Shrewsbury. Tel.: Shrewsbury 2061 (2 lines)

YORKSHIRE and NORTH HANTS COUNTIES. Landed, Residential and Agricultural Estates.—BARKER, SON AND LEWIS, F.S.I., F.A.I., 4, Park Square, Leeds 1. (Tel. 23427.)

FISHING

TROUT FISHING to Let on the Beechfield Water at Sherfield on Loddon, Basingstoke. River has been stocked with Brown Trout this season. In half-mile lengths. 50. To view and particulars: JAMES J. MILES, Keeper's Cottage, Sherfield, Basingstoke.

5, MOUNT ST.,
LONDON, W.1.

CURTIS & HENSON

Grosvenor 3131 (3 lines).
Established 1875.

SUSSEX

Near Horsham, within 1½ miles of two stations.

AN OLD TUDOR-STYLE MANOR HOUSE

WITH STONE MULLIONED WINDOWS

200 feet above sea level, and approached by entrance drive. Great hall and gallery. 4 reception rooms, two staircases, 13 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms.

Main electricity and telephone. Modern drainage.

Garage and stabling. Cottage.

PLEASURE GROUNDS WITH TENNIS COURT AND SURROUNDED BY TREES.

PADDOCK, KITCHEN GARDEN AND ORCHARD

IN ALL ABOUT

4½ ACRES

FOR SALE FREEHOLD

Agents: CURTIS & HENSON, 5, Mount Street, W.1. (16,211)

SHROPSHIRE

1¼ miles of Trout Fishing.



A GEORGIAN HOUSE

Facing south, about 200 feet above sea level. 4 reception rooms, 12 or more bedrooms, 4 bathrooms. Electric light. Central heating. Garage. Stabling. 5 Cottages. The grounds include 2 tennis courts, pond and small wood. Orchards, kitchen gardens and land, in all about 70 ACRES. FOR SALE FREEHOLD. POSSESSION OF THE MANSION AFTER THE WAR. Further particulars of CURTIS & HENSON, 5, Mount Street, W.1. (15,180)

BUCKS

Near Bourne End and High Wycombe. Adjoining an old-world village and only 30 miles from London.

A SIXTEENTH-CENTURY MANSION

RESTORED AND MODERNISED

Spacious hall, 3 reception rooms, 10 principal bedrooms, and additional secondary bedrooms, with separate staircases, 3 bathrooms. Companies' electricity, water and gas. Central heating. Commodious brick and tiled stabling. Garages. Farmhouse and 5 Cottages.

CHARMING PLEASURE GROUNDS of about 6 ACRES with beautiful forest trees and choice shrubs. Extensive and fertile kitchen garden walled on three sides and well stocked. Greenhouses and outbuildings.

FINELY TIMBERED PARK WITH TWO CARRIAGE DRIVES, ONE TO THE VILLAGE.

135 ACRES

FOR SALE FREEHOLD

WITH POSSESSION OF THE HOUSE AND GROUNDS AFTER THE WAR.

Further particulars from the Owner's Agents: CURTIS & HENSON, 5, Mount Street, W.1. (13,917)

Grosvenor 1553
(4 lines)

GEORGE TROLLOPE & SONS

(ESTABLISHED 1778)

25, MOUNT ST., GROSVENOR SQ., W.1

Hobart Place, Eaton Sq.,
68, Victoria St.,
Westminster, S.W.1

WEST SUSSEX

A CHARMING LITTLE TUDOR RESIDENCE IN LOVELY OLD-WORLD GARDENS

3 RECEPTION ROOMS, GARDEN ROOM OR ENTRY, 5 BEDROOMS,

BATHROOM, MODEL DOMESTIC OFFICES (RECENTLY REDECORATED)

Main electric light and power. Main water. Modern drainage.

GARAGE AND WORKSHOP

LAWNS, PAVED PATHS. SUNK GARDEN WITH LILY POND. WELL-STOCKED KITCHEN GARDEN WITH FRUIT TREES. USEFUL PADDOCK.

IN ALL ABOUT 3 ACRES

FOR SALE FREEHOLD WITH POSSESSION SEPTEMBER NEXT

Inspected and confidently recommended by the Sole Agents: GEORGE TROLLOPE & SONS, 25, Mount Street, W.1. (C.2043)

ATTRACTIVE HUNTING BOX

12 ACRES GOOD GRASSLAND. STABLING AND YARD FOR 12
15 miles Lincoln, near racecourse and golf, near the Burton hunt.

GEORGIAN RESIDENCE

with 6 bedrooms, bathroom, 3 reception rooms, excellent outbuildings.

2 ACRES WELL-STOCKED GARDEN

Modern drainage, main water, telephone. Color gas in house and stables.

PRICE

£4,500 FREEHOLD

IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO PURCHASE AN ADJOINING FIELD OF 8 ACRES. Inspected and recommended by the Sole Agents: GEORGE TROLLOPE & SONS, 25, Mount Street, W.1. (5923)



3, MOUNT ST.,
LONDON, W.1

RALPH PAY & TAYLOR

Grosvenor
1032-33

ONE OF THE ORIGINAL OLD HUNTING DOMAINS OF THE BEAUTIFUL ASHDOWN FOREST

Amidst delightful rural surroundings.

10 minutes' walk from bus route with services to East Grinstead and Haywards Heath.

FASCINATING STONE-BUILT TUDOR MANOR HOUSE

dating in part from the REIGN of KING JOHN.

8 bed and dressing rooms, 3 bathrooms, 3 reception rooms.

Central heating. Main water. Silverite gas lighting. Main electricity available.

GARAGES. STABLING.

DELIGHTFUL INEXPENSIVE GARDENS.

Fine old trees, walled-in kitchen garden, paddock. In all about 5 ACRES

FREEHOLD ONLY £6,500

POSSESSION ON COMPLETION

Sole Agents: RALPH PAY & TAYLOR, 3, Mount Street, W.1



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OXFORD & CHIPPING NORTON

CHIPPING
NORTON
39

BETWEEN BANBURY AND CHIPPING NORTON

In a rural but accessible position.

AN EXCEPTIONALLY PLEASING STONE-BUILT COTSWOLD MANOR HOUSE

Skilfully modernised to form a most comfortable and charming home.

Sitting rooms, 5 principal bedrooms, 4 maids' bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Main electric light. Good water supply. Telephone. Central heating.

Garages, outbuildings and good stabling. Cottage (another possibly available, if desired).

Simply designed but charming grounds, large and prolific kitchen garden, fruit trees, together with 4 to 5 acre paddock, in all about

7 ACRES

FOR SALE FREEHOLD

WITH VACANT POSSESSION IN DECEMBER, 1944, OR POSSIBLY EARLIER.

Inspected and recommended by JAMES STYLES & WHITLOCK, Oxford.

OXON - GLOS BORDERS

In a picturesque little Cotswold village.

A PERFECT STONE-BUILT AND STONE-TILED COTSWOLD RESIDENCE OF CHARACTER

converted from an old farmhouse many years ago, combining the charm of old-world features with the comfort resulting from skilful modernisation and occupying a pleasingly rural position, facing due South.

Lounge hall, 4 reception rooms, well-planned domestic offices, 13 principal bed and dressing rooms, 3-4 servants' bedrooms, 4 bathrooms. Main electric light and power; ample water supply. Telephone. Central heating. First-class stabling, farm buildings and garage. Excellent cottage (1-2 more available, if desired).

CHARMING GROUNDS, INTERSECTED BY AN OLD MOAT. HARD-TENNIS COURT, ORCHARD, ETC., TOGETHER WITH LARGE PADDOCK. IN ALL ABOUT

11 ACRES

FOR POST-WAR OCCUPATION (Now requisitioned by the Women's Land Army)

TO BE SOLD FREEHOLD

Inspected and recommended by JAMES STYLES & WHITLOCK, Oxford.

23, MOUNT ST.,
GROSVENOR SQ., LONDON, W.1

WILSON & CO.

Grosvenor
1441

30 MILES SOUTH

A DELIGHTFUL ESTATE of over 80 ACRES with exceptionally fine house of character. 12 beds, 4 baths, 3 panelled reception. Small home farm, 5 cottages. Lovely old gardens, pasture and woodland. Post-war possession.

VERY MODERATE PRICE

Sole Agents: WILSON & Co., 23, Mount Street, W.1.

WEST SUSSEX BORDER

Lovely position 800 feet up on sandy soil.

DELIGHTFUL SMALL ESTATE, with charming old-world house of long, low type. 10 bedrooms (basins), 4 bathrooms, 4 reception. Electric light. Central heating. Farmery. 3 Cottages. Finely timbered gardens and rich pasture.

FOR SALE WITH 50 ACRES

Agents: WILSON & Co., 23, Mount Street, W.1.

WANTED TO PURCHASE

WITHIN 60 MILES OF LONDON PREFERABLY S. OR S.W. A SMALL HOUSE OF SOME CHARACTER, preferably old, with 5 to 7 bedrooms, farm buildings, etc., 2 or 3 cottages, say 100 to 150 ACRES. Can wait for possession.

Replies to: A.N., c/o WILSON & Co., 23, Mount St., W.1.

WANTED TO PURCHASE

A PLACE OF SOME CHARACTER, with trout fishing, in HANTS, WILTS or BERKS. House of medium size required, and land up to 500 ACRES or more. A very good price offered by client of MESSRS. WILSON & Co. Immediate possession not essential.

Details to: WILSON & Co., 23, Mount Street, W.1.

£5,000 WITH POSSESSION

A CHARMING GEORGIAN TYPE HOUSE on the SURREY-BERKS BORDER. Most tastefully appointed and IN PERFECT ORDER. 5-6 bedrooms, bath, 2 reception. Main services. Garage. Delightful garden of AN ACRE.

AN EXCEPTIONAL OPPORTUNITY

Sole Agents: WILSON & Co., 23, Mount Street, W.1.

FINE QUEEN ANNE HOUSE

In a lovely, unspoiled part of Suffolk

A MOST DELIGHTFUL OLD HOUSE with period decorations and surrounded by lovely old garden with ornamental water. 10 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 4 reception. Electric light. Central heating. Home Farm (let). 3 Cottages. **FOR SALE WITH 200 ACRE**

WITH POSSESSION AFTER THE WAR

Agents: WILSON & Co., 23, Mount Street, W.1.

Station Rd. East,
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Oxted 240.

F. D. IBBETT, MOSELY, CARD & CO.

125, High St., Sevenoaks, Kent Sevenoaks 1147-8.

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Surrey.
Reigate 2938.

IN ONE OF KENT'S LOVELY VILLAGES

3 miles from Sevenoaks.



THIS FASCINATING ELIZABETHAN HOUSE, 8 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3 reception rooms, cloak-room, maids' sitting-room, and excellent offices. Main drainage and electricity. Central heating. Delightful but inexpensive gardens of 1 ACRE (at present under requisition). **PRICE, FREEHOLD, £3,750.** For further details apply Messrs. F. D. IBBETT, MOSELY, CARD & Co., 125, High Street, Sevenoaks (Tel. 1147/8); and at Oxted and Reigate, Surrey.

SEVENOAKS

Secluded yet but a few minutes from fast train service.



AN EXCEEDINGLY WELL APPOINTED MODERN HOUSE. Spacious hall, 6-8 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3 reception rooms. Garage for 2 cars. Main services. Central heating. Delightful matured garden of about 2½ ACRES. **PRICE FREEHOLD £5,900. VACANT POSSESSION ON COMPLETION OF PURCHASE.** Particulars of the Owner's Agents: F. D. IBBETT, MOSELY, CARD & Co., 125, High Street, Sevenoaks (Tel. 1147/8); and at Oxted and Reigate, Surrey.

JUST SOUTH OF SEVENOAKS

Beautifully secluded yet conveniently situated.



THIS EXCEPTIONAL MODERN HOUSE OF CHARACTER. Lounge hall, 7 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 3 reception rooms, maids' sitting-room. Excellent offices. **CENTRAL HEATING**. Main services. Garage for 2. Greenhouses. 2½ ACRES of beautiful garden. **PRICE FREEHOLD £6,950. FOR POST-WAR OCCUPATION.** Gardener's cottage if required. Particulars of the Owner's Agents: F. D. IBBETT, MOSELY, CARD & Co., 125, High Street, Sevenoaks (Tel. 1147/8); and at Oxted and Reigate, Surrey.

FAREBROTHER, ELLIS & CO.

Central
9344/5/6/7

(Established 1799)

AUCTIONEERS. CHARTERED SURVEYORS. LAND AGENTS.
29, FLEET STREET, LONDON, E.C.4

Telegrams:
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CROPREDY, OXON

4 miles north of Banbury.

THE POPLARS FARM ESTATE

MODERN FARM HOUSE, GOOD SET OF BUILDINGS, 4 COTTAGES WITH ABOUT 162 ACRES

AN ATTRACTIVE OLD STONE VILLAGE HOUSE AND OXHEY FIELD OF 12½ ACRES

ALL LET AND PRODUCING A GROSS RENTAL OF ABOUT

£391 per annum

FAREBROTHER, ELLIS & CO. will offer the ABOVE FREEHOLD PROPERTIES for SALE by AUCTION in 3 LOTS at THE WHITE HART HOTEL, BANBURY, at an early date (unless sold previously).

Particulars, Plan and Conditions of Sale may be obtained on application to The Land Agents: Messrs. MAXWELL & STILGOE, Banbury.

The Solicitors: Messrs. LATTER & WILLETT, 26 Market Square, Bromley, Kent.

The Auctioneers: 29 Fleet Street, E.C.4. Central 9344/5/6/7

184, BROMPTON ROAD,
LONDON, S.W.3

BENTALL, HORSLEY & BALDREY

Kensington
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ONLY JUST ON OFFER
IMMEDIATE INSPECTION
ADVISED

SURREY—South of Dorking
Midst the loveliest country.

PICTURESQUE HOUSE OF CHARACTER, partly 16th Century. 3 reception, 6 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Splendid offices. Esse, etc. **MAIN WATER. CO.'S ELECTRICITY. CENTRAL HEATING.** Cottage. Farmery. Stabling. Garage. Easily maintained gardens, together with some 30 ACRES

THE WHOLE PROPERTY IN PERFECT ORDER

FREEHOLD WITH POSSESSION
Sole Agents:
BENTALL, HORSLEY & BALDREY.

WYE VALLEY
NEAR ST. BRIAVELS
WITH 14 ACRES

Trout and salmon fishing near.

DELIGHTFUL OLD HOUSE OF CHARACTER in perfect order throughout, and all on two floors. High up facing South, with lovely views over the valley. 4 reception (parquet floors), 8 bedrooms (all fitted basins), 2 bathrooms. Electric light. Unfailing water. Modern certified drainage. Sandy soil. Garage. Stabling. Beautiful terraced gardens. Very fine timber trees. Rich pastureland and small wood. **14 ACRES. IMMEDIATE POSSESSION.**

FREEHOLD ONLY £4,200
GENUINE BARGAIN

GENTLEMAN'S HIGH-CLASS
OXFORDSHIRE FARM

FAVOURITE PART HEYTHROP
COUNTRY

NEARLY 450 ACRES

highly-cultivated lands. Superior stone-built residence in excellent position with beautiful views, 3 reception, 5 bedrooms, bath; electric light, etc. Excellent buildings. Bailiff's house and cottages.

FOR SALE FREEHOLD AT REASONABLE PRICE

with immediate possession. Recommended.
BENTALL, HORSLEY & BALDREY,
184, Brompton Road, S.W.3. (Ken. 0152.)

FINE MIDLAND FARM
NEAR TAWMORTH, LOVELY
SURROUNDINGS

Nearly 150 ACRES richest black (95 finest quality grass) watered streams; all in ring fence and can large head of stock. Excellent residence approached by nice drive. 3 reception, 6 bedrooms, bathroom. Main electric light. Excellent buildings; accredited ties for with drinking bowls, and all in splendid repair. Cottage. No tithe or Land Tax. Superb for pedigree stock. Present owner 24 years. Substantial price, but a farm the highest standard. Admirably suited gentleman having Midland interest.

VACANT POSSESSION
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JOHN D. WOOD & CO.

23, BERKELEY SQUARE, LONDON, W.1.

Mayfair 6341
(10 lines).

HILLS NORTH OF READING

300 ft. up on gravel soil in lovely wooded country.

THIS BEAUTIFUL TIMBER-FRAMED HOUSE

RESTORED BY A LEADING CONTEMPORARY ARCHITECT, AND QUITE
UNUSUALLY WELL-EQUIPPED IN EVERY WAY.

FINE RAFTERED LOUNGE (the full height of the house), 3 sitting rooms, 8 principal
bedrooms and 5 bathrooms. 10 other rooms (in self-contained wing, easily converted into
TWO FLATS

MAIN ELECTRICITY AND WATER. RADIATORS. NEW DRAINS.

REALLY DELIGHTFUL GARDEN WITH MASSES OF FLOWERING TREES AND
SHRUBS.

ABOUT 27 ACRES £17,500 FREEHOLD

A VERY CHOICE PROPERTY.

Sole Agents: JOHN D. WOOD & Co., 23, Berkeley Square, W.1. (52,035)



SUFFOLK

Between Ipswich and Bury St. Edmunds. 1 mile from station. Under 5 miles from Ipswich. 21 miles from Bury St. Edmunds.

DELIGHTFULLY SET IN BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY OVERLOOKING THE GIPPING
VALLEY.

129 ACRES

OLD FARMHOUSE

PLASTER FACED, WITH TILED ROOF, CAREFULLY MODERNISED IN ALL
RESPECTS AND IN VERY GOOD REPAIR.

Lounge, 3 sitting rooms (with parquet floors,) 8-9 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms.

ELECTRIC LIGHT. CENTRAL HEATING. AMPLE WATER SUPPLY.

2 COTTAGES (with electric light). GARAGES FOR 3 CARS. Loose boxes.

FINE SET OF FARM BUILDINGS, WITH MOST OF THE LAND LET ON A TENANCY
EXPIRING MICHAELMAS, 1944, BUT THE TENANT WOULD CONTINUE IF DESIRED.

FOR SALE FREEHOLD

WITH POSSESSION BY ARRANGEMENT.

Further particulars from JOHN D. WOOD & Co., 23, Berkeley Square, London, W.1. (83,359)



LOFTS & WARNER

41, BERKELEY SQ., LONDON, W.1. Gro. 3056.

PRELIMINARY NOTICE OF SALE

LANCASHIRE
OF AN IMPORTANT AGRICULTURAL ESTATE of about 1,500 ACRES
INCLUDING

FERTILE FARMLANDS WITH EXCELLENT FARMHOUSES AND BUILDINGS, AMPLE COTTAGES, Etc.,
COMPACTLY SITUATED, EASILY MANAGED. LET TO OLD STANDING TENANTS AND PRODUCING OVER

£3,000 per annum

Principals and their Agents can obtain particulars from the Managing Agents, Messrs. LOFTS & WARNER, 41, Berkeley Square, W.1, as above.

PRELIMINARY NOTICE OF SALE.

DORSET

FREEHOLD AGRICULTURAL ESTATE of about 700 ACRES

IN A PRETTY PART OF THE COUNTY AND AN EXCELLENT HUNTING DISTRICT, WITH SHOOTING
OVER THE PROPERTY. WITHIN EASY REACH OF GOOD MARKETS AND RAILWAY. COMPRISING GOOD
FARMLANDS with FARMHOUSES and some USEFUL HOLDINGS. ALL WELL LET AND PRODUCING OVER

£1,000 per annum

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WOOLLEY & WALLIS

SALISBURY, RINGWOOD & ROMSEY

Tel.: 2491

By direction of W. Hutchinson, Esq.

MAINLY WITH EARLY VACANT POSSESSION

THE HURDCOTT HOUSE ESTATE, SOUTH WILTS

7 miles from the City of Salisbury, on the main west road to Exeter and Taunton.

Good bus services and express trains.

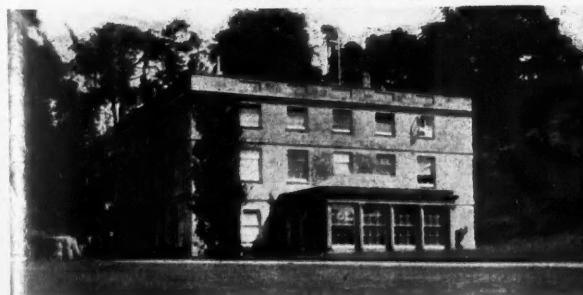
VALUABLE OASIS OF GREENSAND AMID THE CHALK HILLS, IN ONE OF THE
MOST BEAUTIFUL AND PRODUCTIVE VALLEYS OF THIS DELIGHTFUL COUNTY
including the ATTRACTIVE STONE-BUILT GEORGIAN RESIDENCE, a MEDIUM-
SIZE COUNTRY HOUSE of character and charm

with modern conveniences, situated amongst surroundings of great natural beauty and finely
timbered park and grounds of 70 ACRES.

THE ESTATE, WHICH IS NEARLY ALL IN HAND, COVERS AN AREA OF 1,017 ACRES
with the mile of trout fishing in the Nadder and a lake (wildfowl), and 3 EXCELLENT FARMS
(250 acres, 300 acres and 106 acres each), in good heart and condition, with good buildings.
Always in hand. Vacant Possession Michaelmas next. 21 CHARMING SMALL HOUSES
AND COTTAGES are of great character natural to the countryside. Various Holdings and
Accommodation Lots. 120 Acres of Woodland in Lots showing some of the FINEST TIMBER
it is possible to grow. Also good Meadowland, which

WOOLLEY & WALLIS are instructed to SELL by AUCTION, as a whole or in Lots,
at the Red Lion Hotel, Salisbury, Wednesday, JUNE 14, 1944, at 12.45 p.m.

Full particulars (price 5/-), from the Solicitors, Messrs. BIRKBECK, JULIUS EDWARDS & Co.,
49, Moorgate, London, E.C.2; or the Auctioneers' Offices at Salisbury, Tel.: 2491.
Ringwood, Tel.: 191. Romsey, Tel.: 129.



It is many years since an opportunity of this nature has arisen in this beautiful part of Wiltshire.

Regent
4304

OSBORN & MERCER

MEMBERS OF THE CHARTERED SURVEYORS' AND AUCTIONEERS' INSTITUTES

28b, ALBEMARLE ST.,
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YORKS (West Riding)

In a picked position about 400 ft. above sea level, commanding charming views over undulating well-wooded country.

AN ATTRACTIVE STONE-BUILT HOUSE



with halls, 4 reception, billiard room, 14 bed and dressing rooms, 3 bathrooms.

Main electricity. Excellent water supply.
3 Garages with chauffeur's flat. Stabling.
Farmbuildings.

Matured pleasure grounds, 2 tennis courts, walled kitchen garden, ornamental woods, pasture, etc. In all

ABOUT 30 ACRES
FOR SALE FREEHOLD

Inspected by: OSBORN & MERCER, as above. (17,473)

HANTS (near Winchester)

*Occupying a magnificent position commanding glorious views to the south and south-east.*A DELIGHTFUL SMALL ESTATE WITH A
SPLENDIDLY APPOINTED RESIDENCE

Fine lounge (40ft. by 21ft.), 3 other reception rooms, 11 bedrooms (all with fitted basins), 4 baths.

Co.'s electricity, gas and water. Central heating.

Farmbuildings, Lodge. 2 cottages. Garages.

Pretty pleasure gardens, hard tennis court, partly walled kitchen garden, parklands, woodland, farmland, etc., in all

ABOUT 215 ACRES

Note.—The lodge, park and land are let.

FOR SALE FREEHOLD.

Sole Agents: OSBORN & MERCER, as above. (17,479)

HERTS

About 300 ft. above sea level, surrounded by lovely beech woods.

A WELL-BUILT MODERN HOUSE

with 3 reception, 5 bedrooms, bathroom.

Main services. Central heating throughout.

The gardens are delightfully disposed, yet inexpensive to maintain and include rose garden, pergolas, herbaceous borders, well-stocked fruit and vegetable garden. In all

ABOUT 1½ ACRES

FOR SALE FREEHOLD

Details from: OSBORN & MERCER, as above. (M. 2302)

HANTS AND SURREY BORDERS

*Occupying a quiet position away from traffic nuisances yet within a mile of a station with splendid train service to town.*A MOST ATTRACTIVE MODERN HOUSE
thoroughly up to date and in first-class order throughout.

Small hall, 3 reception rooms, loggia, usual offices with servants' sitting-room, 6 bedrooms (all with lavatory basins, h. & c.), 2 bathrooms.

Main services. Central heating.
2 excellent Garages.

Delightful well-maintained gardens including lawns, flower beds and borders, tennis lawn, kitchen garden, and a small copse. In all A LITTLE OVER AN ACRE.

FOR SALE FREEHOLD WITH DEFERRED
POSSESSION

Inspected and recommended by OSBORN & MERCER, as above. (17,476)

LONDON, CAMBRIDGE

R. C. KNIGHT & SONS

STOWMARKET (Tel. : 384-5.)

NORWICH, HADLEIGH

AUCTION SALES OF SUFFOLK AND NORFOLK FARMS

AT IPSWICH—JUNE 20

*For the Hon. Mrs. M. Bowman-Vaughan.***THE LAUREL FARM, STONHAM ASPAL**, 7 miles from Stowmarket. In the village, a very **ATTRACTIVE RESIDENTIAL DAIRY HOLDING**. Excellent House, 2 sets of Premises, 3 cottages. Main water and electricity. **168½ ACRES. Let at £334 per annum.** A really sound Investment proposition.Solicitors: Messrs. Hyman Isaacs Lewis & Mills,
Audrey House, Ely Place, London, E.C.1.*For the Executors of J. R. Davies.***THE FASBOURNE HALL ESTATE, near STOWMARKET. 2 PRODUCTIVE HOLDINGS**—The Hall and Park Farms, extending to **288 ACRES. Let at rentals amounting to £300 per annum.** Lucrative investment.Solicitors: Messrs. Cartwright, Cunningham, Haselgrove & Co.,
Walthamstow, London, E.17*For Mr. F. Moyes, retiring.***WOOD FARM, HEMINGSTONE, near IPSWICH. A HIGHLY DESIRABLE STOCK FARM OF 99 ACRES.** Splendid homestead. Main water. Long road frontages. Land suitable for Fruit and Market Garden Crops. Possession October 11 next.

Solicitors: Messrs. Jackman Sons & Smith, 37, Silent Street, Ipswich.

At DISS in June.

*For Mr. E. J. Steggle, retiring.***THE ROYDON ESTATE, near DISS, NORFOLK. 5 EXCEPTIONALLY ATTRACTIVE SMALL FARMS**, comprising "Poplar," "Sturgeons," "Boyes" and "Stolleries" Farms, Roydon, and "Furze Farm," Winfarthing. 50 to 88 acres. Two with POSSESSION October 11 next. Extending in all to **240 ACRES. In LOTS.**

Solicitors: Messrs. Lyns, Burne & Lyns, Diss.

AT BURY ST. EDMUNDS—JUNE 21

*For the Executors of Robert Hutley.***BRIDGE FARM, TOSTOCK.** Midway on the main road between Stowmarket and Bury. The highly attractive **DAIRY FARM OF 75 ACRES.** First-rate Homestead, 2 Cottages. POSSESSION next Michaelmas.

Solicitors: Messrs. Beaumont & Son, Coggeshall, Essex.

*For Mr. F. W. Barker.***GREEN FARM, FINNINGHAM.** Between Stowmarket and Diss. **200 ACRES. MIXED FARM** with fine old Elizabethan Residence. Good buildings, main Electricity. POSSESSION next Michaelmas.

Solicitors: Messrs. Banks, Ashton & Co., Bury St. Edmunds.

*For Mrs. A. M. Blackler.***HAYDON FARM, NORTON.** Between Bury St. Edmunds and Stowmarket. **A VERY WELL-SITUATED and HIGHLY FARMED HOLDING OF 70 ACRES.** Residence, Farm Premises, 2 Cottages. POSSESSION at October 11 next.

Solicitors: Messrs. E. Leeds Smith & Co., Sandy, Beds.

SANDPITS FARM, WALSHAM-LE-WILLOWS. In the Bury-Stowmarket-Diss Triangle. **An ATTRACTIVE SMALL HOLDING OF 18½ ACRES** with House and Premises and POSSESSION on completion.

Solicitors: Messrs. Gudgeon, Peacock & Prentice, Stowmarket.

Descriptive Particulars may be obtained on request from the Auctioneers as above, or the respective Solicitors.

TRESIDDER & CO., 77, South Audley St., W.1

Grosvenor 2861.

Telegrams: "Cornishmen, London"

£10,000. REALLY EXCEPTIONAL PROPERTY
NORTH HERTS

43 miles London, 2 miles station (bus service)

CHARMING MODERN CHARACTER RESIDENCE in excellent order and with ALL CONVENIENCES. Hall, 3-4 reception, 4 bathrooms, 6 bedrooms. Main water and electricity. Central heating. Telephone. Double garage. 2 Cottages optional. Inexpensive gardens. Kitchen garden and orchards. **7 or 13 ACRES.**—Inspected and strongly recommended by TRESIDDER & Co., 77, South Audley Street, W.1. (21,492)

EASY DAILY REACH LONDON

Electric rail service, 700 feet up on gravel.

WELL-BUILT AND FITTED MODERN CHARACTER HOUSE. Carriage drive. Hall, 3 reception, 3 bathrooms, 9 bedrooms (7 fitted h. and c.). All main services. Central heating. Phone. Garages. Stabling. Double cottage. Charming grounds, tennis lawn, kitchen garden, orchard and paddocks. **11 ACRES. BARGAIN AT £6,750.**—TRESIDDER & Co., 77, South Audley Street, W.1. (15,312)

WELLESLEY-SMITH & CO.

17, BLAGRAVE STREET, READING.

Reading 4112.

PRICE IS A SECONDARY CONSIDERATION

VERY URGENTLY REQUIRED

WITHIN 80 MILES OF LONDON, but preferably nearer. **HOUSE IN GOOD CONDITION**, having company's electricity, containing 5 to 8 bedrooms and with not less than **2 ACRES** (a much larger area entertained). No restricted localities. Vacant possession (excepting land) within 4 months.—

"ANGLO-INDIAN," c/o MR. WELLESLEY-SMITH, 17, Blagrove Street, Reading.

TOTTENHAM COURT RD., W.1

(Euston 7000)

MAPLE & Co., LTD.

5, GRAFTON ST., MAYFAIR, W.1

(Regent 4685)

VALUATIONS

FURNITURE and EFFECTS

valued for Insurance, Probate, etc.

FURNITURE SALES

Conducted in Town and Country

APPLY—MAPLE & CO., 5, GRAFTON STREET,
OLD BOND STREET, W.1

"THE LOGS"

facing Hampstead Heath.

THIS HIGHLY IMPORTANT FREEHOLD PROPERTY, occupying an island site, the greater part of which is walled in. Commodious mansion with 15 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, fine suite of ground floor reception rooms. Non-basement, domestic offices. Central heating. Electric light and power. **BEAUTIFULLY LAID OUT GARDEN WITH RANGE OF GLASS HOUSES, ETC. FINE GARAGE and RESIDENTIAL FLAT.** In all over **1 ACRE.**

VACANT POSSESSION (except Garage now requisitioned) on completion.

Auctioneers: MAPLE & Co., LTD., as above.

Within 12 miles of the West End and City.

FOR SALE FREEHOLD
A MOST ATTRACTIVE HOUSE

Very well built and with modern comforts, situate in very fine grounds extending to about

1½ ACRES

Accommodation includes: Lounge hall, 3 nice reception rooms, billiard room, 7 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, etc. Large garage. Garden laid out by landscape gardener, fine rockery, lawns, kitchen garden, greenhouses.

Small piece of Woodland.

Recommended by MAPLE & Co., as above.

ESTATE

HARRODS

OFFICES

Kensington 1490

Telegrams:

"Estate, Harrods, London."

KNIGHTSBRIDGE HOUSE

62/64, BROMPTON ROAD, LONDON, S.W.1

West Byfleet
and Haslemere
Offices

UPPER REACHES OF THE THAMES

c.4

*Overlooking the famous Quarry Woods and with exclusive river frontage with good boathouse and balcony.*THIS FASCINATING
PROPERTYWith hall, 3 good reception, 8 bed and
dressing rooms, bathroom. Complete
offices. Servants' hall.

COMPANIES' MAINS.

CENTRAL HEATING.

Good cottage with three rooms, bath-
room. Entrance lodge.

GARAGE FOR 2 CARS.

COVERED BADMINTON COURT.

REALLY CHARMING
GROUNDSWith hard tennis court, ornamental
garden, woodland walk, in all about

5 ACRES

FOR SALE FREEHOLD

With Early Possession

HARRODS LTD., 62/64, Brompton Road,
S.W.1. Tel.: Kensington 1490. Extn. 806

DENHAM

c.2

Adjoining and overlooking the golf course.ARTISTIC AND PICTURESQUE
RESIDENCEcontaining 3 reception rooms, 7 bedrooms (fitted basins),
2 bathrooms. Maids' sitting room.All main services. Central heating. Constant hot water.
Garage and outbuildings.WELL-TIMBERED GARDENS AND GROUNDS
OF ABOUT

1 1/4 ACRES

FOR SALE FREEHOLD

HARRODS LTD., 62/64, Brompton Road, S.W.1.
(Tel.: Kensington 1490. Extn. 809.)

PORLOCK AND MINEHEAD c.2

Situated on the slope of a delightful valley.

OLD-WORLD STONE-BUILT RESIDENCE

*In a secluded and sunny position commanding
extensive views.*3 reception, 6 bedrooms, dressing room, bathroom, maid's
sitting room. Main services, central heating. 2 garages.
Stabling. Outbuildings.

GARDENS AND GROUNDS OF ABOUT

4 ACRES

INTERSECTED BY A SMALL TROUT STREAM

PRICE FREEHOLD £6,000

HARRODS LTD., 62/64, Brompton Road, S.W.1.
(Tel.: Kensington 1490. Extn. 809.)

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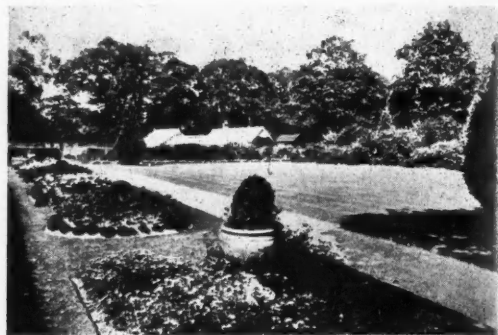
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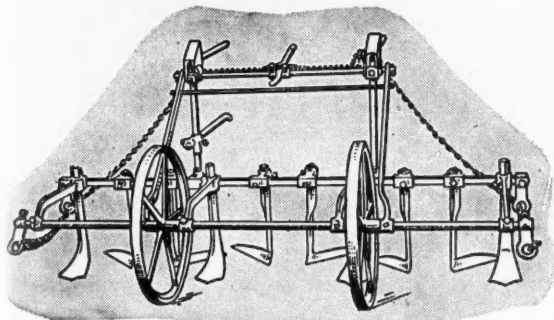
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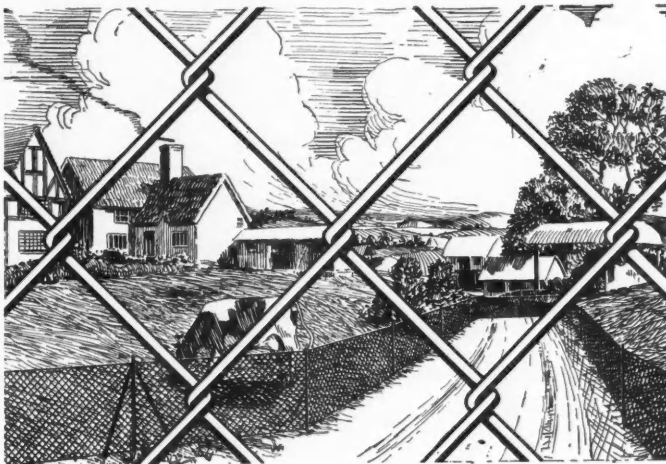
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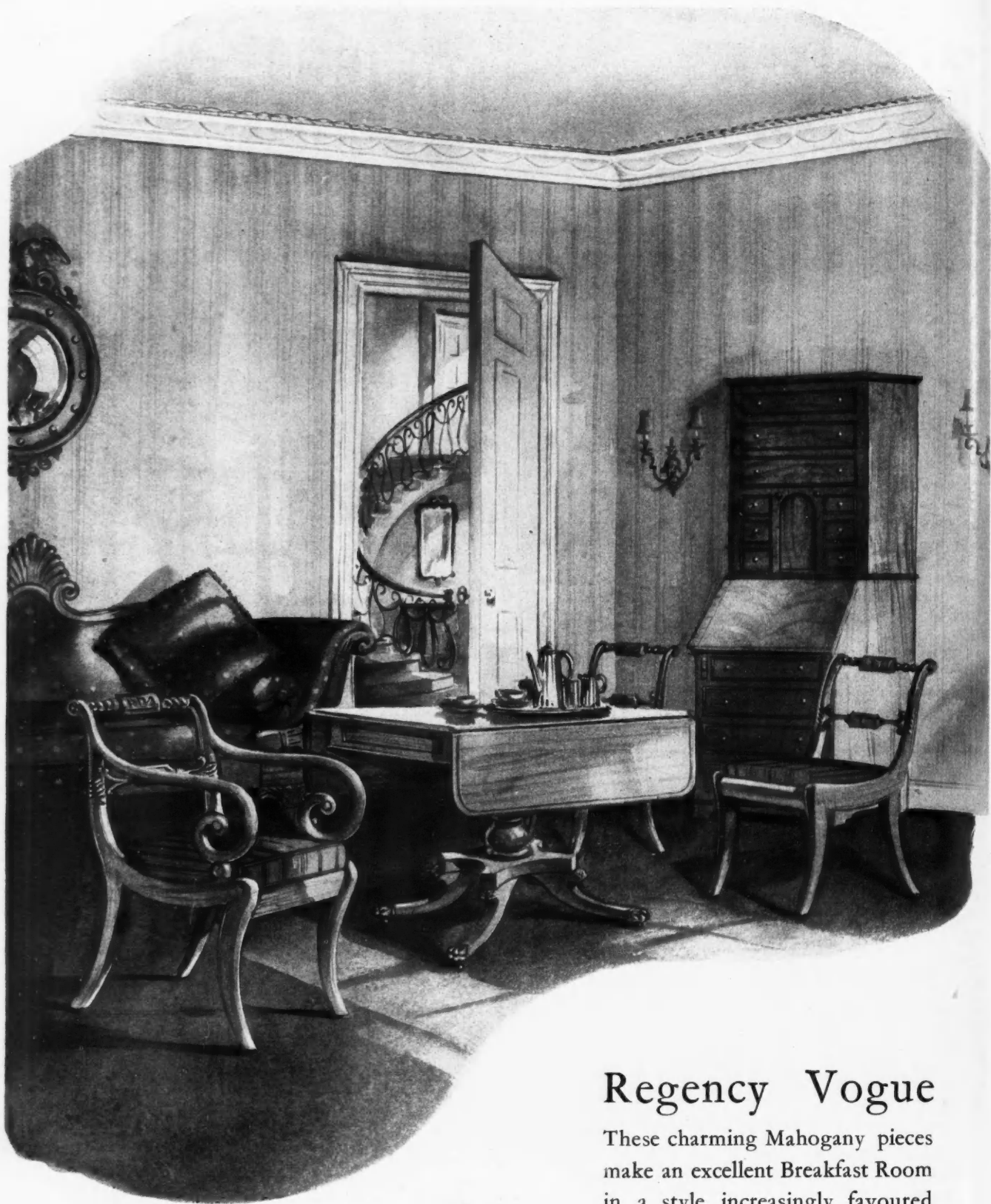
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COUNTRY LIFE

Vol. XCV. No. 2471

MAY 26, 1944



Harlip

THE HON. MRS. JOHN SKEFFINGTON

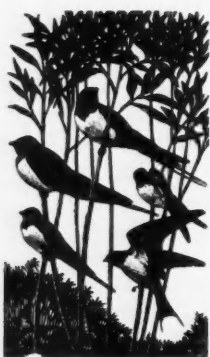
Mrs. Skeffington is the wife of the only son of Viscount Massereene and Ferrard and the daughter of the late Mr. Henry D. Lewis, of Combwell Priory, Flimwell, Kent. Her little son is four years old

COUNTRY LIFE

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AGRICULTURAL CREDITS

IT may, at the present moment, be a work of supererogation to stress the dangers of over-capitalisation; but they undoubtedly exist for farmers as for other men of business and should not, even when capital is short, be kept entirely out of view. Mr. Hudson bases his proposals for long-term credit, contained in the agricultural miscellaneous provisions Bill, partly on the desirability of helping farmers to purchase their farms at reasonable rates of interest and partly on the modernisation of buildings and provision of new equipment which will be so important for the new start after the war. Agriculture has been living on its capital for many years and great arrears of maintenance are accumulating. Particularly, said the Minister, will new buildings and equipment be needed to carry out the policy of improving and increasing livestock which seems inevitable if a nutrition and fertility conservation policy is to be adhered to in the future. It must not be forgotten, all the same, that unless successive Governments stick firmly to this fertility and nutrition policy and make that policy feasible by maintaining a guaranteed price level, the position of farmers living on borrowed capital will not be improved merely because it comes from a State-guaranteed credit-bank.

The new proposals are necessarily somewhat technical, but it may be said that, in order to make it possible for the Corporation to extend its business rapidly and so meet the urgent needs of farmers, the present Bill authorises the Minister to make advances to the existing guarantee fund up to a total of £2,500,000. The maximum figure thus attained will enable the Corporation to lend up to £31,500,000 as against the £13,000,000 which is its present limit. As a matter of fact the total amount of loans to farmers outstanding to-day is a little over £7,000,000, so that the new proposals will make about £24,500,000 of new money available. At the same time the rate of interest on loans is to be reduced to 3½ per cent., which should mean that much more business will be done. As Mr. Hudson pointed out, the benefit will accrue almost wholly to the agricultural industry. Dividends on the share capital of the Agricultural Mortgage Corporation were originally limited to 5 per cent. cumulative. The Government now propose to make it 3½ per cent. non-cumulative so long as any Government advance to the guarantee fund remains outstanding. Naturally the chief point on which the House required information was as to the position of holders of old loans at a higher rate of interest. Mr. Tom Williams explained that no Treasury would agree to an all-round reduction in the rate of interest. On the other

hand borrowers could repay their loans if they paid a 5 per cent. fee for repaying before the due date, and could re-borrow later at the lower rate of interest that would then be charged.

The failure of the Agricultural Mortgage Corporation, founded in 1928, was due to the conversion in 1932 of the Five per cent. War Loan to a 3½ per cent. basis. The Corporation found its activities drastically restricted by the fact that it could not lend to new agricultural clients at lower rates of interest than that at which it had borrowed its debentures. Money was lost in reducing interest to 4½ per cent. and the uselessness of the Corporation at present is shown by the fact that the volume of new business being done falls short of the amount that is being repaid, by no less than £550,000 a year. Obviously drastic measures must be taken if the Chancellor's promise is to be carried out that long-term loan facilities will in future be readily available at reasonable rates.

BOMBED CHURCHES

THE arrangement reached between the War Damage Commission and the committee representing the Churches is, in most respects, eminently satisfactory. "Plain repair," or a "plain substitute," the reasonable cost of which will be met by the Commission, is defined as what the denomination would itself ordain if it were paying the bill and were "neither financially embarrassed nor unduly rich." That means that reconstruction will be in appropriate materials and style, and that, where there was a steeple, or a pitched roof, those features will be replaced, though the situation and design of the building should determine their precise character. Exact reinstatement is envisaged "where the building remains of special importance for architectural, historic, or other reasons"; further it is laid down that "patching involves matching." These qualifications are important in connection with the pedantic contention that repairs to an old building should always be made intentionally self-evident; and with the case of those City churches that virtually no longer "remain." In the clause on change of site a significant exception provides that where the old site was so valuable that its sale pays for the new building besides the new site, the balance will belong to the denomination. This concession evidently has reference to the Church of England's plans for parochial reorganisation, in which the disposal of City church sites has long been a matter of controversy. There is wide agreement that, where destroyed, their sites and walls should be preserved as "gardens of rest," and their towers retained where standing. This clause in the agreement appears to envisage the sale of the sites.

ANNUAL MIRACLE

*EVEN for me the blackbird sits
And sings upon a bough,
Even for me, though I am old
And disillusioned now.
But Spring, ah, Spring still wears a dress
That can out-charm unhappiness,
It is so beautiful to see—
Even for me.*

G. E. J. PROUDMAN.

NATIONAL TRUST COTTAGES

PEOPLE interested in cottages, and in the problems of fitting new buildings into picturesque streets, should visit the Regent Street Polytechnic next week, where over 250 designs for a group of cottages at West Wycombe will be on exhibition. They were submitted for a competition arranged by the National Trust, the owners of this famous village, and, while necessarily more conservative in appearance than some of the designs produced by the Northamptonshire Women's Institute's Competition, introduce most of the current innovations in cottage planning. But the most interesting point in the winning design, by Messrs. Tom Mellor, G. Grenfell Baines, and T. A. Ashworth, is its practical application, to the problems of accommodation, relationship to setting, and use of site, of the picturesque principle of irregularity. The site is somewhat

irregular, and the old village street extremely so. Unlike the majority of competitors, obsessed by neo-Georgian symmetry, the winners recognised that this was essentially an occasion for an irregular composition, and have evolved a group consisting of three two-storey cottages and one of a single storey but of equivalent accommodation. Economical and simple, using traditional materials, and cleverly planned (so that all rooms look south although the cottages face north), the assessors aptly describe the design as "an architectural composition taking a natural, unforced place in the village street."

A PUBLIC BENEFACTOR

MANY must have been sorry to read of the death of Sir Gurney Benham, feeling that they owed him a personal debt of gratitude for his well-known *Book of Quotations*. Nor was such gratitude limited to those whose profession was writing. The book has been a comfort to innumerable people who could almost but not quite recapture some elusive quotation or proverb and would have worried themselves into a fever without its aid. Such a book moreover is alluring for its own sake and peculiarly hard to lay down, as many have realised by forgetting what they set out to look for and finding themselves reading on entranced. Sir Gurney was right in quoting in the Preface to his first edition Emerson's words: "Neither is a dictionary a bad book to read." In the creation of such a work it is not merely his erudition and hard work that we admire but his buoyant spirit. No one could set out on so gigantic an enterprise who did not believe in his heart that to travel hopefully is better than to arrive. Many readers, and especially those who find in quotation an intense delight, may say in some words found in his own book "Accept my thoughts for thanks."

PECULIAR PIGS

THE Americans are reported to have evolved a new breed of pig of superior shape and a red hide which is proof against the blisters commonly caused by the sun shining over God's Own Country. A fierce sun is not the only trial with which American pig-breeders have to contend: we recall having read that the swine of America sometimes succumb to a temptation to eat daffodils.

In one part of the United States there is a daffodil which is eaten by pigs. The flower has the peculiar effect on the pigs of tingeing their bones pink. Moreover, if the daffodils are eaten by a white pig, the flowers cause the animal to shed its hoofs. For this reason only black swine are raised in the localities where the daffodil grows.

However, though Britain may have no pigs distinguished by blister-proof hides or daffodil-consumption and pink bones, we have in the past been able to boast pigs which could count, point game as well as any gundog, and find truffles. And the British colony of Kenya is even now yielding the remains of a prehistoric pig which was as large as a present-day rhinoceros.

APPLES AND FROST

ALTHOUGH the effects of the early May frosts were patchy rather than general, they were serious enough in some of our best fruit-growing districts, and there will certainly be a scarcity of apples and soft fruits this summer. But May frosts are a recurring evil, and the question suggests itself whether our hybridists might not profitably devote their attention to producing later-blooming varieties of apples. Hitherto they have concentrated chiefly on improving flavour and appearance, and the date of flowering, probably owing to the difficulty of preserving the pollen, seems to have attracted very little attention. Actually there are already in existence at least two late-flowering varieties which have good qualities, but which for some reason have never been in commercial demand—Crawley Beauty, a cooker which flowers early in June, and the veteran Court Pendu Plat, which flowers at the end of May. If these could be crossed with a Bramley or a Cox's Orange so as to preserve the best qualities of each variety the hybridist could confer a real benefit on horticulture.



F. A. Weemys

SUMMER IN THE COTSWOLDS: THE VILLAGE OF WESTWELL

A COUNTRYMAN'S NOTES

By

Major C. S. JARVIS

IN my early salad days when first I started to grow outdoor tomatoes—and it is not so very long ago since these fruits were regarded as hot-house plants only—I read in my gardening instructions that *all side shoots must be pinched off*. One may forget to water the plants, to manure or to spray with Bordeaux mixture, but one is most unlikely to forget to remove those ever-to-be regretted side shoots that the poor old tomato with strong views about expansion persists in pushing out in every direction.

Now that my salad days are over, and after some thirty years of outdoor tomato growing, I am beginning to wonder if the advice is altogether necessary. Owing to pressure of work in the garden during the last two years quite a number of tomato side shoots were overlooked and, coming to maturity, produced fruits in every way equal to those on the parent stem, with the result that I had two plants producing tomatoes instead of one.

THE tomato is in reality an extremely strong and profuse growth, and it is only its inability to withstand our early and late frosts which has given us the idea that it is most delicate and finicky about its soil and treatment. I have seen self-sown tomatoes in the East growing lustily and producing excellent fruit in a barren spot where almost every passer-by trod on some portion of the plant, and the variety was not a tough Oriental type, but from very special English stock. My old Turkish gardener of other days, when ordered by me to pinch off all side shoots according to established British custom, was both pained and amazed at this idiotic suggestion, and appeared to think there should be some enquiry into my mental condition. Though he did not flatly refuse to obey my orders he did the next best thing, and carried out my instructions only so far as half a dozen plants were concerned, leaving the rest in their natural state. Later on when the fruits were ripe he called my attention every evening to the tomatoes on his untreated plants which

were the equal in size of those on my pruned specimens and more than treble the number. "For the Christian riles, and the Aryan smiles and he weareth the Christian down," and after this I surrendered unconditionally.

OUR milkman, who besides being able to impart invariably incorrect information as to the spots where last night's bombs dropped is also a self-appointed weather expert, was arguing with me recently about the possibility of frosts in May. In his view I was "asking for it" with my early potatoes, which were almost in flower by late April, as there had been several of those mists in March which foretell frosts in May. I held the view that none of the mists was a real mist, merely the natural haze of a chilly but clear morning, but he disagreed entirely.

"You mark my words you're going to cop it in May, and we shan't hear so much about your very early potatoes," and now, whatever my views may be as to his reliability as a bomb location expert, I have come to the sad conclusion that he knows something about weather. The only remarkable thing about a very severe and thorough frost is that it has overlooked some most precocious sweet corn which, we are told, is most susceptible to extreme cold.

I HAVE received two letters about hedgehogs recently: one of these is from a correspondent in East Hampshire who has not seen one for years, and who will gladly pay all travelling expenses to any reader who will send him one or more, a boar and sow preferred. The other letter comes from a resident in Somerset, where hedgehogs abound, who always maintains a stock of them in his walled garden, but says that his attempt to keep one in the kitchen to destroy the beetles has failed, as the cook com-

plaints of the smell. All that one can say with regard to this is that he is very lucky to have hedgehogs in his garden, and still more lucky to have a cook in the kitchen; and my advice to him is that, at the risk of hurting the hedgehog's feelings, he should evict the animal and retain the cook.

I believe the hedgehog is one of the oldest, if not the oldest, resident in Great Britain, and apparently he is perfectly satisfied with his figure and general equipment, for he has not altered his general make-up in any detail since the days when the mammoth roamed the swamps and the giant elk browsed the miocene growths. The Somerset correspondent says that in one of his sheds he found the bodies of a stoat and a hedgehog lying face to face on a heap of straw, and that the stoat had a deep wound in his throat. Everything pointed to there having been a fight to the death and, if the peaceful hedgehog is capable of holding his own with such a savage and redoubtable fighter as a stoat, it provides an explanation of his survival through a million changing years.

THE character of the hedgehog is on the whole exemplary, as his favourite diet is beetles, cockchafer and other destructive pests of the garden, and, if he does sometimes suck the eggs in a hen's "stolen-away" nest, it is entirely the hen's fault for being so casual and wayward about what is now a most important business. The only other complaint about him is that he is, or was, accused of sucking milk from cows and sheep at night, and I hesitate to stir up this old controversy again as I have no direct evidence either way. All I can offer is hearsay evidence which we know is inadmissible, and this is that the belief about the hedgehog's addiction to stolen milk is held also by the nomad Arab of the East. It is a queer coincidence—if there is nothing in the accusation—that two communities so far apart in every way as the English cow-keeper and the Beduin goatherd should have arrived at the same conclusion about the hedgehog's habits.

A TRAPPER IN THE FAR NORTH

By EDGAR GARTON

I HAVE often been astounded to discover how ignorant about Canada many people—even well educated ones—are, both in England and in the United States. I hope, therefore, that an account of the life of a trapper in the far north will provide items of interest for those who would like to be enlightened.

Let me say, at the outset, that a trapper as much as anyone else deplores the necessity for the use of steel traps. The so-called "humane" traps are only adapted to smaller animals like mink. Assuredly, any reliable "kill-at-once" trap would soon be universally adopted, if only to avoid losses. But while there is the demand for fur—to equip armies fighting in Arctic conditions, for instance—it is the trapper's job to get it.

My location is on the north shore of Athabasca Lake in Saskatchewan, just under the sixtieth parallel constituting the border of the North-West Territories. It is about 550 miles by plane north from Prince Albert and the nearest railroad is at Waterways, in Alberta, about 400 miles away. The country is very harsh, and it is in the nature of his calling that a trapper has no neighbours, and yet—there is something about the north. It is not merely a home and a livelihood to me, but the only life and the only country.

In trying to give you a clear picture of our life in the north the best way, perhaps, is to describe the activities of any average year, beginning at the height of summer—which is the "off-season" for everything.

On the sixtieth degree of latitude we experience continuous daylight for about three months. In June, the sun goes down at about 11 o'clock and rises round about one or two in the morning. Throughout May, June and July there is a long, clear twilight with a glow in the northern sky. At midnight it is still bright enough to distinguish colours, and to read. Usually there is calm weather for weeks on end, with the broad, dark lake stretching unruffled to the horizon.

Along the big lakes it keeps fresh enough, but far inland, in the bush, it is dead, sultry, still, and the country is cursed with myriads of mosquitoes and black-flies. Usually there is no game, and the fishing is poor in most waters. Seagulls nest on bare reefs in the lake in early June; in the pale midnight they drift, white and high, in the sky, their lonely calling across the water floating to the lake shore.

All summer I keep a net out and visit it daily. The net is 4½-in. mesh, 100 yds. long

and about 4 ft. wide, set in about 80 ft. of water. It is kept afloat by cedarwood floats, and marked by birch-log buoys.

Towards the end of August, when the flies are not so bad, I spend a week or two cutting my winter wood supply. I cut it into stove lengths, split it and stack it on the spot—generally somewhere along the main lake, so that it can be brought in by boat.

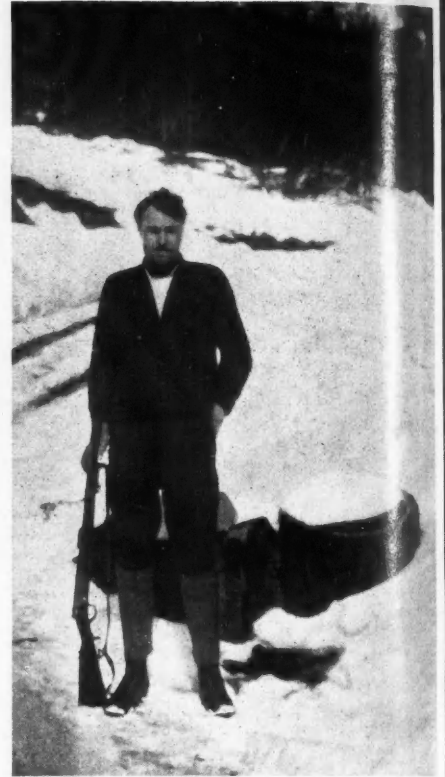
During September, the fish become more plentiful, the nights are quite cold and the flies are gone. This is the best time to put up fish, before the lake gets too stormy. I like to secure at least 2,000 fish for dog feed. (The trout weigh up to 40 lb., but 15 lb. is the average.) This gives somewhat more than a ton of fish for each dog, and allows a comfortable ration of 10 lb. per dog per day, from late September to early April.

From this haul I select the best trout and smoke them, in a floorless shanty built on stilts. The fish are cleaned, split open down the back, washed in strong salt water and then hung by the head on willow rods. A fire is made on the ground beneath, and when strongly kindled it is heavily banked with green sticks of poplar, birch and willow. After several hours the fish are done. They actually get cooked as well as smoked, and are quite good to eat as they are, without further preparation.

For the dogs, I hang the fish by the head on poles, and the sun and the wind cure and partly dry them. One does not clean the fish. Thus dealt with, they are especially palatable and have a mildly tonic effect. Dogs fed all winter on freshly caught and freshly frozen fish often get intestinally bound.

The fall comes early: in the third week of August the poplars start yellowing and by early September every autumn hue has been lavished on the bush. This is a good time to hunt moose and bear. A bear killed in the fall is always fat, and the fat can be rendered for frying and shortening. The meat can also be smoked and cured, and makes the finest ham.

During October the smaller lakes start freezing up, and by early November the Barrenland caribou reach us on their southward trek. The herds pass for three or four days, and many of them have never seen a man, for they will gather round and stare at me in mild surprise. This is when I obtain my winter supply of meat: about eight or ten caribou are needed. The Barrenland caribou is small, and the front quarters are poor; only the back and hind quarters are used for human



THE AUTHOR

consumption. The rest goes to the dogs: it is a change from fish, and they make short work of it.

In October, too, the ducks and geese fly south in huge numbers, and provide a welcome addition to the larder.

After the main herd of caribou has gone, well, if you have not got your winter's meat by then, you can forget about it, for there will not be any more, except rabbits and ptarmigan. Sometimes the caribou miss me by about 50 miles, necessitating a long boat trip up the lake in the worst possible weather. In some years they just disappear entirely, and that makes a lean time. It is for this reason that one must put up plenty of fish in the early fall, as it is important to have sufficient dog-feed. Snaring rabbits for a hard-working and hungry team of huskies would leave no time for anything else. My dogs and I spent one hungry winter on that account, and were reduced to eating squirrels and jay-birds.

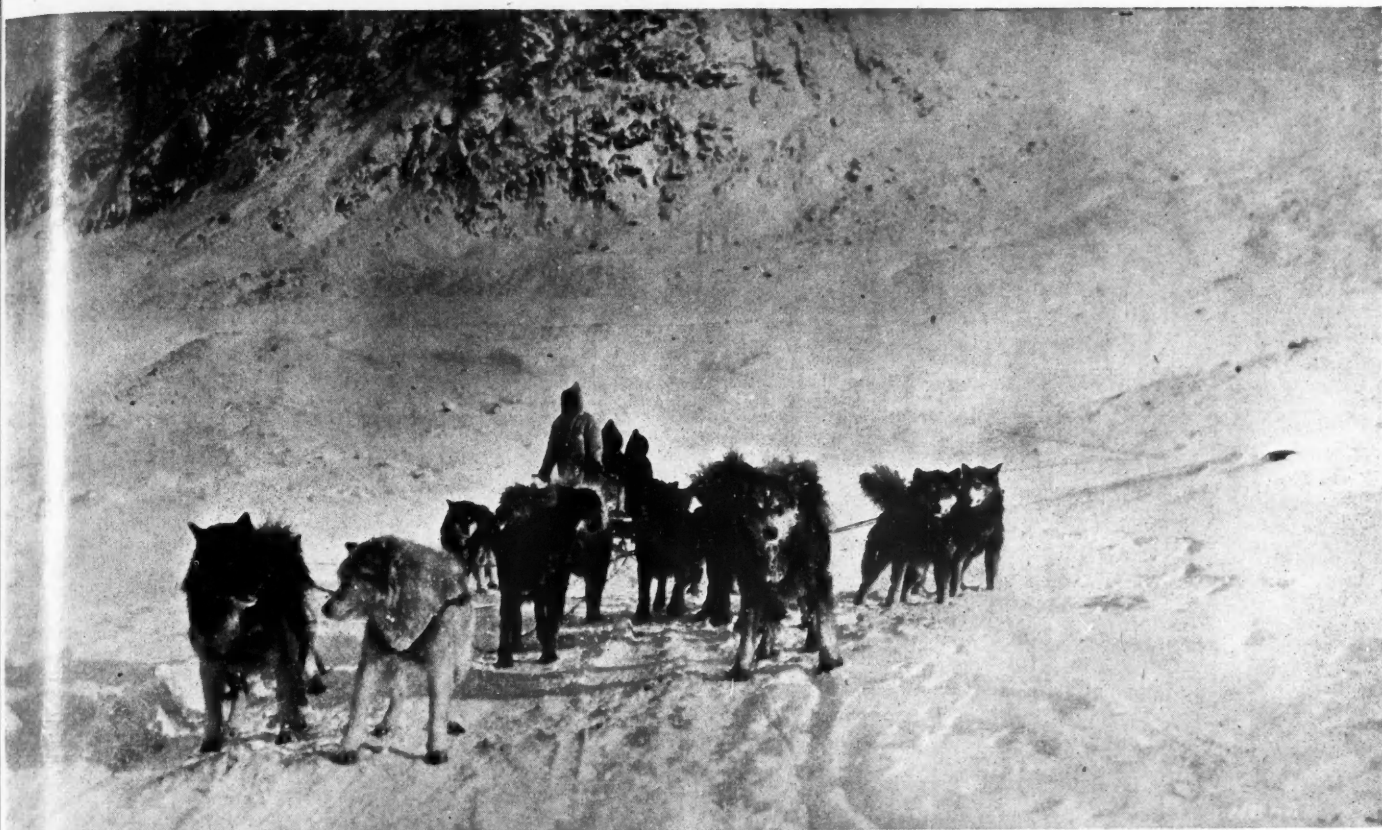
The end of the caribou hunt leaves me slack till early December. Then trapping begins in earnest. Foxes, lynx and mink are usually taken until after New Year, when the advent of the strong cold puts a period to trapping till the end of February. The animals simply do not move around much during the severest weather.

We go after fur strongly again from March till early May, which is the time of the "spring hunt"—muskrats and beaver, plus a re-stocking with fresh meat when the caribou return. This spring trapping is the finest of all; the hard part is over—the long trips and sleeping out in temperatures 60° below zero. Now the sun is strong, the days are bright and long, and the catch is usually very profitable. The little dogs are happy too; they get their tummies full of muskrat and are able to spend much of the day basking in the sun and sleeping it off.

So though "ratting" involves long hours of work, making the rounds of your trap and skinning out the day's catch, it is a grand time, when a man can literally soak up the sun and there is time to stop on the trail and boil tea.



A LOAD OF FURS AT A NORTHERN POST WAITING TRANSPORT BY AIR TO SIOUX LOOKOUT, ONTARIO



A DOG-TEAM ON THE TRAIL

The little lakes are usually open by early May, and the days are already very long.

So the season ends, and during break-up, before the big lakes are open, I am generally busy painting and overhauling canoe and skiff. There is dog harness to be oiled and laid away, and the toboggan to be doped with pine-tar. About the middle of June the first Hudson Bay boat gets in.

That is how the year goes by—like a tremendous slow-motion clock, its cycle punctuated by the caribou migration every spring and fall; break-up; freeze-up, and the flat calm of the long and lazy midsummer.

I believe all huskies carry a wolf strain, and many trappers deliberately cross their dogs with wolves. A female husky, when in heat, is tied out in the bush and if it is in a remote place where no dogs can get to her, the male wolves will hear and respond to her mating call, which even to human ears is quite distinctive. As a rule timber wolves will kill and eat any husky they can get hold of, but in this case the animal is safe.

The half-wolf pups are not so tractable as the next generation, which is bred back to the husky. A quarter-strain of wolf blood makes a good dog. Since, though, the origins of your own dogs are often obscure, you can end up with rather more wolf blood than you had bargained for.

This cross-breeding maintains and accentuates the desired husky characteristics: tough feet; physical size and strength; a dense under-fur which thickens up in winter; strong jaws and teeth, and the ability to thrive on the alternate feast and famine conditions often prevailing.

There are other characteristics present in most huskies which are common to the wolf as well: ears generally erect; eyes light in colour and often slit-slant instead of round, and, of course, they cannot bark. But most huskies have an up-curling tail, while the wolf always droops his tail.

The real Eskimo dog on the Arctic coast is much smaller than the husky farther inland. Dogs of this breed are called malemutes and they are more wolf-like and very savage-looking animals.

I have heard of white trappers getting a female wolf-cub and later breeding it with a husky. While she is raising her pups, her native savagery comes very much to the fore, and is acquired by the pups, so that when they are old enough to wean they are too wild and vicious to handle.

Similarly, if a female husky is not penned up when her pups are born, she will make her own secret den in the bush and defeat all your efforts to trail her there. When eventually the pups start travelling around with the old lady they are as wild as wolves.

I raised a litter of four huskies: Smoky, Silver, Blaze and Pudgie. Dixie, a female, came

in as a stray. She was an Indian dog and had never known anything but abuse.

Blaze is a light colour, neither white nor buff, with a tightly-curved feather-brush of a tail. He is a very lively animal, very obedient, and would pull his heart out, in harness, if you let him. He tries very hard to say Hallo! I always approach him saying "Hallo, Blaze, hallo, hallo!" He stands on his hind legs (chained up), waves his front paws, and after a few preliminary hoots and bellows, says "Harro! harro!" He is always on springs and enjoying life. When I am following the line on foot he accompanies me, inspecting all the snares and traps and never forgetting a set. He will pull the dead rabbits from the snares



A FUR TRAPPER ARRANGING A TRAP

and bring them to me. These he guards from other dogs and never attempts to eat them himself, although I snare the rabbits only to feed the dogs.

From each one I give him his special tit-bit—the heart, liver and lungs. They only make a spoonful, but he accepts them very delicately from my fingers and then downs them with much lip-smacking.

He is rather a fastidious feeder and won't eat a rabbit unless it is first skinned. I always feed him and Pudgie together: Pudgie believes there is a rainy day coming, and invariably selects a few pieces and puts them away for future reference, then shares the remainder with Blaze.

Pudgie shows the wolf-blood very strongly: a grey and tawny under-fur with long black hairs growing through it. He generally carries his tail down. He is rather unpredictable and inclined to be savage with other dogs.

Dixie was a brindled black, with a broken-down ear and a broken canine tooth and a knobby place on one side from broken ribs. All this was due to the usual club-work, I think. She was so starved that her back was arched. She drifted into my camp and, after accepting scraps on one or two nights, came close enough for me to touch her. She promptly bit my hand and vanished. Later, however, we made friends—at least, she maintained a snarling and uneasy truce for a week or two, while I kept her chained up with the rest of my outfit. For two months it was impossible to fill her up; she just ate and slept. She often got loose and raided the storehouse, and out of this banditry she developed a liking for marmalade and cheese.

After two months she presented me with two puppies, acquired before her arrival at my place, and for two or three weeks I had to throw her food from a distance: she would have killed anyone who came within reach.

I had made her a very fine kennel, lined with building paper and filled with sawdust, in anticipation of the blessed event. Dixie, however, scratched out a hole in the snow and had her pups there on New Year's Eve when the temperature was 44° below zero. All you could see was her one good ear sticking out. In time she trusted me with her puppies.

She came to be deeply attached to me in a quite hopeless, rather foolish and sometimes embarrassing way, and was my guard and shadow. Unlike the other dogs, she had no objection to being indoors, where she would lie glued to my feet. She had a strong sense of proprietorship and would permit nobody near the toboggan.

She would not even allow her team-mates to turn back and inspect its contents. She would not allow other dogs or people near me, and at the approach of one of my own dogs, even, would first nip me sharply in the knees, to indicate that I should stay behind,



BLAZE IS ALWAYS ON SPRINGS AND ENJOYING LIFE

and then turn on the intruder, yowling and snaling, hair on end, to do battle. She bit all my friends, and made a valiant attempt at killing off my partner. Then I had to shoot her.

In summer the huskies really suffer from the heat. Usually one has to keep them chained up. In the evening I let my dogs loose and they wade into the water and stand in it almost to their backs, contentedly cooling off. The dogs eat very little in the hot weather but drink a lot of water. About one raw fish a day (say 3 to 5 lb.) is all they will eat.

During the first month after the big snows we break out the trails: this is tough going. I go ahead on my snow-shoes and break trail, and the dogs follow me. After the second or third trip you have a trail so hard-packed that even after a heavy snow-storm you can feel it beneath your feet, and—except where the snow drifts up—it will not need breaking out again all winter. In most places it is a foot or two lower than the surrounding snow. On the main lake in late spring, after most of the snow is gone, the 50-mile trail to Fond du Lac is still plainly visible along the ice.

I start my journey round the trap line shortly before dawn, and I can reckon on six or seven hours of daylight. Although we only get about five hours of sun-up, there is an hour or so of twilight at each end. I usually figure that eight o'clock is dark; nine o'clock is light enough to see by; four o'clock will be dark again. Still, 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. in December and January are pretty murky. On the clear nights after Christmas there is light enough for night travelling, even if it be only starlight. The reflection from the snow at least shows up the ground, the trail and the trees. By moonlight it is often so bright that one can determine colours, and the sky is quite definitely blue.

But when not on your own trail, or when travelling a strange trail even in familiar country, it is a sound plan to quit travelling and make camp by nightfall. The main lake, particularly, is no place to be at night. When camping out, I make a point of starting the job a good hour before daylight ends, so as to have plenty of wood up, a fire going and everything in order before dark.

On long toboggan trips which may entail travelling on the open ice, I wear a caribou "parka" with the fur on. A heavy sweater and a blanket-cloth shirt go under this, and I find that two suits of light woollen underwear are better than one heavy suit. I wear woollen ski-pants, and, on the feet, two pairs of heavy white woollen socks, a pair of "duffels" and a pair of "mukluks." Duffels are like socks made of white duffel-cloth—a woollen material thinner than felt but thicker and denser-woven than blanket-cloth. Mukluks are knee-high moccasins, usually made of buckskin-tan moose-hide. (Buck-

skin-tan or Indian-tan hide is like chamois leather.) I wear two pairs of mitts—the inner ones woollen, and the outer moose-hide or wolf-hide with a high gauntlet.

The caribou parka is too hot for running around, so in milder weather and when travelling on skis I have a blue silk parka with a wolverine fur-trim on the hood, and silk ski-pants. Silk is windproof and light and is very good on the ice, but does not stand the wear and tear in the bush. Wolverine fur does not frost up so readily as other kinds.

It is difficult to say wherein lies the particular charm and fascination of this country and this life. There is, of course, the freedom; no matter how hard things may be there is freedom from economic want—freedom from the fear of losing one's job—and, in spite of one's dependence on the whim of Nature, there is always enough food for essential needs and, what is more, abundant food for the soul.

I love the summer, when I can travel 200 miles of lake in an open boat, and go down-river to the Arctic if so inclined. And I like the comparatively mild nights of early and late winter, when the dark and secretive arms of night enfold the land, and the little dogs trot forward quietly, all inquisitive ears and noses.

Sometimes during freeze-up, about the time of the first snow, I have heard in the evening my dog-team start a very low, soft howl—almost a cooing sound. Going out to them the first such time, I realised that they were just singing happily. In the darkness the windows were yellow with lamplight; the fish-racks full and heavy; the meat-cache loaded; a wood pile as big as the house—and occasionally a muffled "popping" in the stove sent a shower of sparks up the chimney. Underfoot the new snow was soft. Why shouldn't even a dog sing?



CROSSING THE FROZEN LAKE

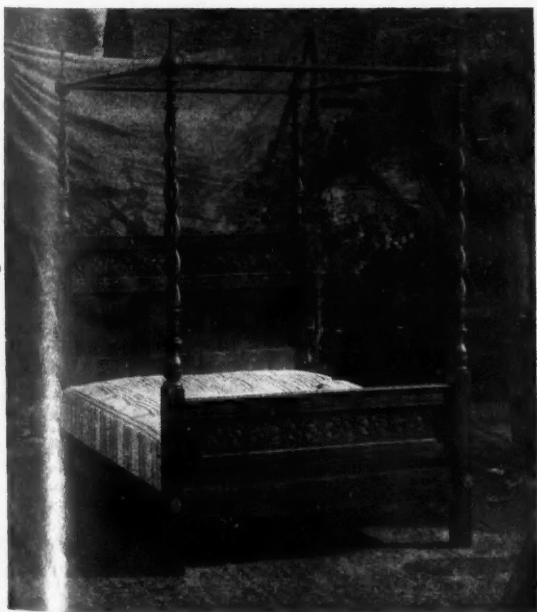
A VILLAGE CRAFTSMAN

By ERNEST HOCKLIFFE

FOURPENCE halfpenny an hour! Four pennies and one halfpenny for an hour's highly skilled labour! It seems scarcely the pittance of a shoeblack. But just 52 years ago it was the actual wage of a most skilful carver in wood. I found him at work on a new pulpit in a Northamptonshire church standing on the crest of a hill, which overlooked a broad valley where lay an ancient city famous for its many splendid churches and a great Elizabethan house close by. A guinea a week to support a young wife and two children! It was indeed a brave old world half a century ago.

Now and again my wife and I walked over to see him, and on one of these visits to his small stone cottage with its tiny garden he showed us a few chairs of the type known as Chippendale and other bits of old furniture. Did we think he could perhaps make a living out of the sale of such things? We urged him to try, and I at once put him in touch with some London dealers, two of whom whose acquaintance I had made and whom I knew to be sound and honest traders. The firm is no longer in existence. They invited him to London, took him to museums, showed him their own things and explained just what they wanted. Before long he was sending van-loads of old furniture to them and he quickly blossomed into a most competent and trustworthy antique dealer. As the saying is, he never from that moment looked back, and though he has made no fortune he has won the respect and friendship of his many clients.

It was interesting to watch his development; to inspect the attractive things he found; to watch his own growing interest, even his affection for his acquisitions, especially when they were crippled or broken by age or carelessness. He would talk of them or lay his hands upon them as tenderly as the most sympathetic of doctors or nurses would talk of their patients. The root of the matter was in him; he loved his new labours; it was not just the commercial aspect that appealed to him, and I feel sure that he often lavished more time and care on some restoration work than was profitable to himself. He is an old man now, and I have not seen him for many years, but when we last met there was still the same gentleness, still the same affection for his old things, the same admiration for those honest workmen who have never scamped their labours, and who had wrought so well in their day that they had served not their own generation only, but the many that came after them—



A RESTORED BEDSTEAD. The lower part is old, the posts designed from an old woodcut

a living testimony to English craftsmanship and skill.

He never left his native village; he moved to a larger cottage with barns, and even another smaller cottage in the garden. His furniture was piled in picturesque disorder; you could rummage about and search hopefully for treasure and often find it. He never had a shop. He must have been tempted, I think, to migrate to the fine old city close by, but he would not have been happy there. He was not a town-dweller. His crowded and uncomfortable little workshop remained the loved centre of his activities. Surely he had found the happy life, but alas! the son, who had inherited the father's taste and skill, lost his life in the last war.

The purchase and sale of old furniture is after all a common trade; it calls for considerable knowledge, but that is acquired without difficulty. But he was never just the common salesman. His real interest lay in the restoration of the sick to health, so to speak, and in that sphere the artist in him found expression. Had he lived a century or two ago he might have developed into a great carver, a second Grinling Gibbons, technically at any rate. Whether or not he had sufficient imagination for the finest work I do not know; he has had no chance of showing that. But within his humbler sphere he was a great artist. He came of farming stock. A grandfather was not a farmer only, but an amateur artist as well; his mother had been an operatic singer, and from these two sources perhaps came the artistic strain which appeared in him.

In so many of our villages to-day there is, I doubt not, much wasted talent. The old craftsmen have left descendants behind them, and there is no reason to doubt that the sons and grandsons frequently inherit their skill, but the crafts have perished and native skill is passing away and except here and there, as in this village, the knell of the village-craftsman has been rung.

Many years ago I bought a fine but much dilapidated Stuart cane-backed chair, with the common decoration of crowns and cupids, etc.

It was a wreck. I sent it to my friend, and he wrote to say that he had received the "beautiful wreck"! It was more than a year before I saw it again, now a fine and apparently perfect chair. A few days after its arrival a London dealer happened to call on me and I showed him the chair, and told him that a great deal of the carving was new, and had been done by an unknown man living in a village about 10 miles away. No doubt, I said to him, you will easily recognise the new work. He had no doubt he could, but after a close inspection he failed to discover one single piece of restoration and that though the broad splat beneath the seat was entirely new; so admirably had all the work been done; so true was it in spirit to the original.

Many years later he had two fine inlaid chairs, from both of which much of the inlay had perished. In due time one of these was completely restored and sold or presented by a client to one of the many museums in the country. When the time came that he wanted to restore the other he went to the museum to



"YOU COULD RUMMAGE ABOUT FOR TREASURE AND OFTEN FIND IT"

make notes and sketches, but was interrupted by an attendant who told him that he could only do that on special days. A higher official, however, was fetched and allowed him to proceed but warned him that he must not touch the chair or handle it in any way; it was in perfectly untouched condition, and a unique specimen; and that to the man who had restored it and possessed its fellow! He gratefully made his sketches and said nothing, but pondered on the innocence of officialdom.

One day an old client, Lady L., arrived with an American friend. They inspected the contents of the various barns and rooms, but the American maintained a forbidding silence. At last, as they were walking down the garden to the smaller cottage I spoke of earlier, the American stopped, looked at the cottage and took from his pocket a card which he handed to the owner.

"That," he said, "Mr. A, is my address; I want you to take that cottage down very carefully, to number all the stones, etc., and to make a careful drawing of it, and then to pack it all off to America for me!"

He then took his cheque book and added: "Now if you will let me know what you want for it I will at once write you a cheque." Here was clearly the chance of his life, but the cottage still stands on its old site. No price would have tempted the owner, and the American lapsed into aggrieved silence.

I have just read of an old peasant living in a wrecked mud hut on the edge of a great desert in Central Asia. He is clothed in rags, but is the owner of two superb jade bowls which he keeps wrapped in filthy cloths in a hole in the wall behind his bedstead. No wealthy collector's agent could draw them from him by any bribe.

They were his father's, they will be his son's, and he loves them, "the heritage of the older generations." This Asian peasant and the English village craftsman may grasp hands, as it were, across the dividing seas. They are touched by the same spirit, they are worshippers at the same shrine, and at the shrine of beauty East and West may meet.

To that Asian peasant perhaps fourpence-halfpenny an hour would be wealth beyond all dreaming.

ENGLISH ENAMELS: BATTERSEA OR BILSTON?

I—BATTERSEA

By G. BERNARD HUGHES

IN Georgian days, when Horace Walpole was making his marvellous collection at Strawberry Hill, Middlesex, fops, curio-hunters, statesmen, generals, fashionable ladies and artists crowded the London china shops and went into raptures over a teapot, a cup and saucer, a grotesque "pagod." Among these treasures, which Mrs. Malaprop called "articles of bigotry and virtue," were exquisitely painted enamels from the factories of Battersea and South Staffordshire. The Battersea establishment tends to receive disproportionate recognition from historians of English handicrafts: to the careless observer all specimens of decorated enamels are "Battersea."

Painting enamels with delicately coloured pictures was the invention of a Venetian glass-blower during those lavishly splendid days which we know as the Renaissance. England's first flight into the realms of decorated enamel was made early in the reign of the third George, when a small factory in Bilston, South Staffordshire, began manufacturing "new-fashioned enamel articles" and other "toys," in competition with the steel toy trade of neighbouring Wolverhampton. That area of devastation, the Black Country, was yet in the making: the air of Georgian Bilston was clean and the best decorators from the Potteries at the other end of the county were close enough to be attracted. A lease came to light a few years ago in which mention is made of this Bilston trade as early as 1749: during the next half-century it was to become a flourishing industry.

This document disproves the theory that English decorated enamel work had its inception at York House, Battersea, where, it had long been assumed, Stephen Theodore Janssen established a factory in 1750. When Mr. W. B. Honey recently inspected the Battersea rate-books he was confronted with proof that York House was not operating until 1753, for no rates were collected until late that year and entries for the several preceding years are merely the one word—"empty."

Throughout a three-year life of artistic brilliance the Battersea venture apparently suffered from commercial instability. The entries start with a flourish of optimism on the part of three partners trading as Jansen, Delamain and Brooks. The following year, 1754, shows that first Brooks and then Delamain were dropped from the firm, which then traded as Stephen Theodore Janssen Esq. The final entry in the third quarter of 1756 appears as Stephen Theodore Janssen or Occ.; then the York House records revert once more to the hollow-sounding "empty."

Janssen was a flamboyant man, an important City merchant, Alderman of the City of London, Lord Mayor in 1754, and third son of Sir Theodore Janssen, a French refugee. Stephen Theodore became the fourth and last baronet and, when he died in fashionable Soho Square, was the close friend of royalty and the

companion of famous artists. Brooks, a Dublin engraver, invented the process of transfer-printing on enamels and china. This brought him into contact with Henry Delamain, a delft manufacturer and fellow-townsmen. With a few Irish-made specimens and some exquisite *bonbonnières* from Sèvres, they journeyed to London where they persuaded Janssen to launch their new discovery in a big way.

York House had been the residence of the Archbishops of York, and within its walls Henry VIII married Anne Boleyn. Janssen and his partners acquired the property and organised a factory for making painted enamels, their leading decorators being fellow-countrymen of Janssen who had sought a home in England. Steel-buckle-makers from South Staffordshire were employed to make the metal bases. Battersea enamels are obviously the result of experience and technical knowledge. All kinds of small objects were made: caskets and tea-caddies, candlesticks, ink-stands, plaques, cane-heads, snuff-boxes, watch-backs, wine-labels, and other articles of dainty use—each one a work of art.

Battersea enamels were laid on a copper base and have soft, white backgrounds in several tones and surface qualities—usually thick, warm and brilliant like soft-paste porcelain. This proved an excellent surface for hand-painted

decoration carried out in full colour in imitation of the porcelain decorator's technique. Colours melted over this enamel with delightful translucent effect and transfer printing copied excellently. The high glaze of Battersea enamel is an indication that lead played an important part in its composition. This enamel does not appear on South Staffordshire work.

Simon Francois Ravenet (1706-74), an eminent French engraver, was responsible for perfecting Brooks's process of transferring an engraving from paper to the prepared enamelled surface, although in printed-painted enamels the part played by the print is slight. After the closing of York House Ravenet and his pupil Robert Hancock went to Dr. Wall's factory at Worcester where they perfected the method of transfer printing on china.

Designs, usually pictorial and frequently copied or adapted from some popular print of the period, were engraved on copper plates incapable of producing more than 200 successful transfers. Landscapes, figures, vases, flowers, birds, portraits of celebrities were favourite motifs, but boxes were sometimes enhanced with topical mottoes, sentiments or verses. Transfer

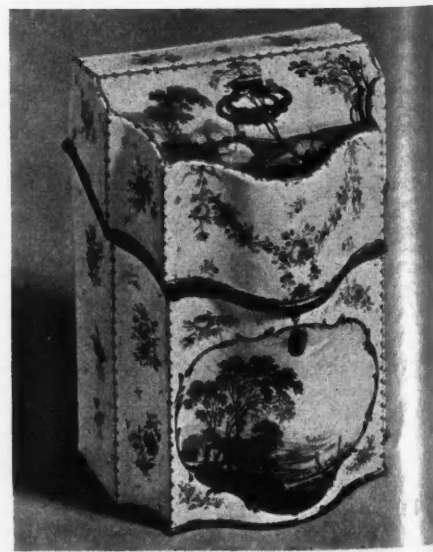


TWO SNUFF-BOXES, SHOWN OPEN AND CLOSED. (Left) A Battersea enamel in Jacobite tartan with portrait of the Young Pretender. (Right) A Bilston family record with the lid painted in a style reminiscent of the later Wolverhampton papier-maché work. (Middle) An unusual enamel portrait of Sir Stephen Theodore Janssen



(Left) A TEA CADDY ILLUSTRATING BATTERSEA WORK AT THE HEIGHT OF ITS BEAUTY—the richly adorned metalwork of its mount being matched by enamels of masterly line and superb colouring

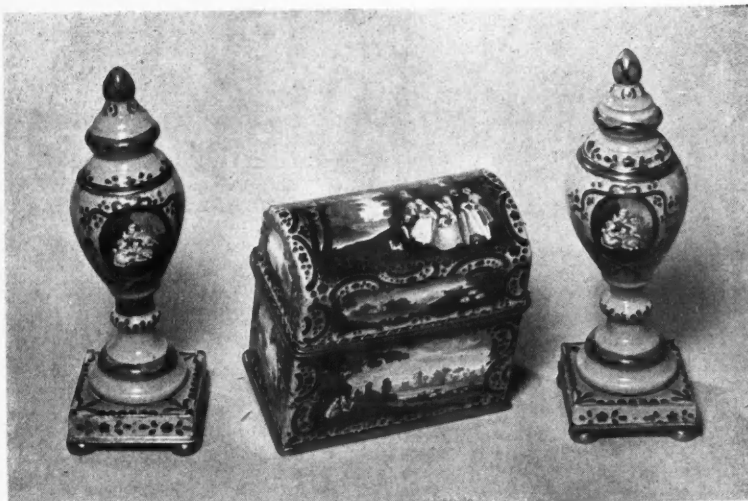
(Right) A UNIQUE KNIFE-BOX decorated in bright colours after the Chelsea style. The set of knives it contains have enamelled handles and forks to match



designs were generally confined to black or sepia with occasional excursions into crimson, mauve and brick red, except where the transfer served as an outline for full-colour printing, a method of decoration peculiar to British enamels. Brooks, the originator, turned out to be a dissolute and unreliable character whose neglect during those vital first months had caused large quantities of faulty enamels to be produced. These were scrapped, their loss being the primary cause of the financial difficulties which beset Janssen.

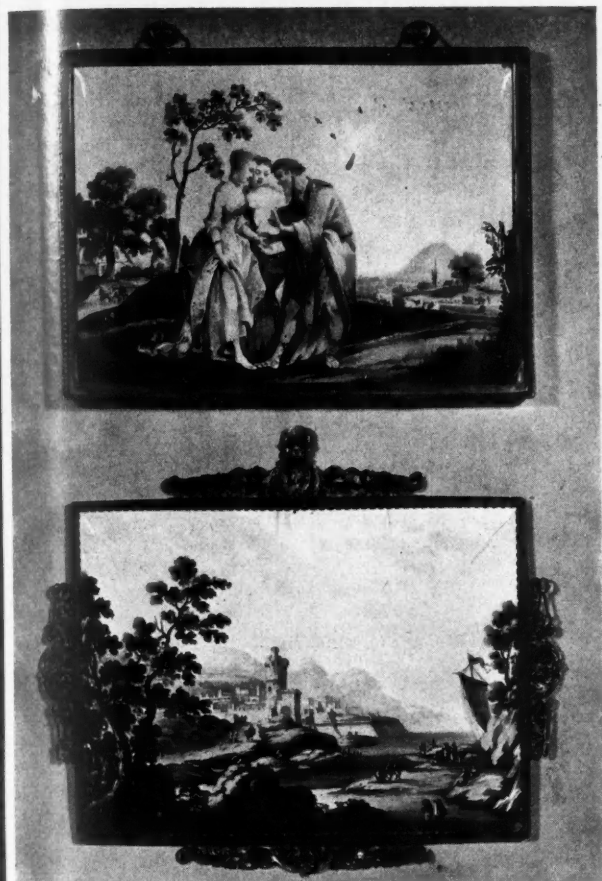
Although the unique artistry and rare originality of the Battersea productions met with great appreciation, Janssen became bankrupt in 1756 and York House was closed. The following advertisement in *The Public Advertiser* of March 4, 1756, gives an idea of the most important objects:

To be sold by Auction by Robert Heath, by Order of the Assignees, on Thursday next and the following days:
The genuine Household Furniture, Plate, Linen, China and Books of Stephen-Theodore Janssen, Esq., at his house in St. Paul's Churchyard. . . .
Also a quantity of beautiful enamels, colour'd and uncolour'd of the new manufactory carried on at York House at Battersea, and never yet exhibited to public view, consisting of Snuff-boxes of all sizes, of a great variety of Patterns; of square and oval pictures of



WRITING-CASE AND PAIR OF CASSIOLES

They illustrate the richly decorative effect achieved by the Battersea artists



TWO CHARACTERISTIC PLAQUES FROM BATTERSEA

The designs are transferred to the enamel from engravings and delicately tinted in washes of transparent colour

the Royal Family, History and other pleasing subjects, very popular ornaments for the Cabinets of the Curious; Bottle Tickets with chains for all sorts of Liquors and of different Subjects; Watch-cases, Tooth-pick cases, Coat and Sleeve buttons, Crosses, and other curiosities, mostly mounted in metal, double gilt.

Enamels originating from Battersea can be placed into three general groups:

(1) Those decorated after the manner of the porcelain painters, with designs inspired by the potters of Dresden and Sèvres.

(2) Examples with printed decorations.

(3) Pieces suggestive of contemporary coloured engravings.

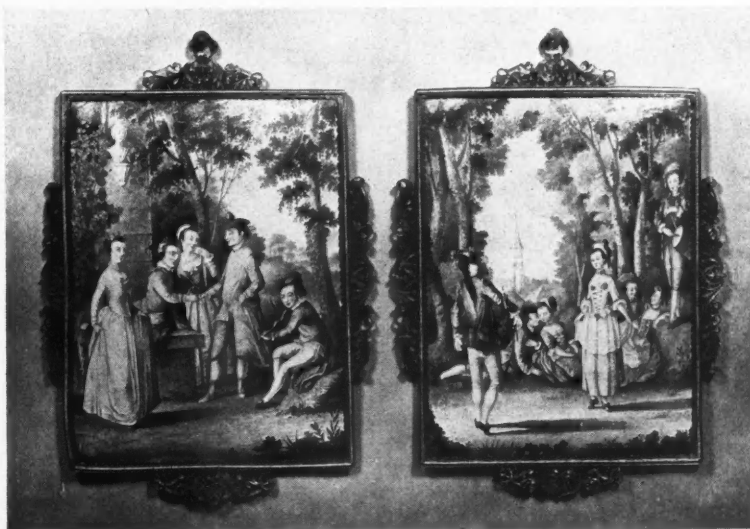
Three colours may be recognised as positively Battersea: a deep bright crimson, a clear bright blue, a warm reddish dark brown. Brown was also used for outlines requiring a warm undertone. The small boxes of Battersea generally had washes of pink and blue laid on the white base enamel. Gilt or gold rococo scroll-work and foliate ornament completed their fantastic decoration. Many enamels from this factory were imitations of French enamel work, but, though often copies, the old Battersea decorators were not slavish in their copying. They had absorbed something of native English taste and creative genius.

(To be concluded.)



JUG, ETUI AND KNIFE-SHEATH

Showing a variety of decorative styles. The mounts of the knife-sheath are of interest as they bear the Chinese mark of Kien-Lung



A PAIR OF BATTERSEA ENAMEL PLAQUES. They are magnificent examples, with a French gaiety of subject and colouring



1.—THE WEST FRONT, ADDED ABOUT 1720 TO THE HOUSE BUILT 40 YEARS EARLIER

HALL PLACE, WEST MEON, HAMPSHIRE—II

THE HOME OF THE HON. ROLAND AND MRS. CUBITT

The house, built by Isaac Foxcroft about 1680 and enlarged and replanned in the next generation, was redecorated by the present owner shortly before the war

By CHRISTOPHER HUSSEY

ISAAC FOXCROFT, who bought the West Meon property, at one remove, from the 4th Earl of Southampton in 1677 and built the oldest part of the existing Hall Place, was probably a substantial yeoman. If so, his descendants quickly

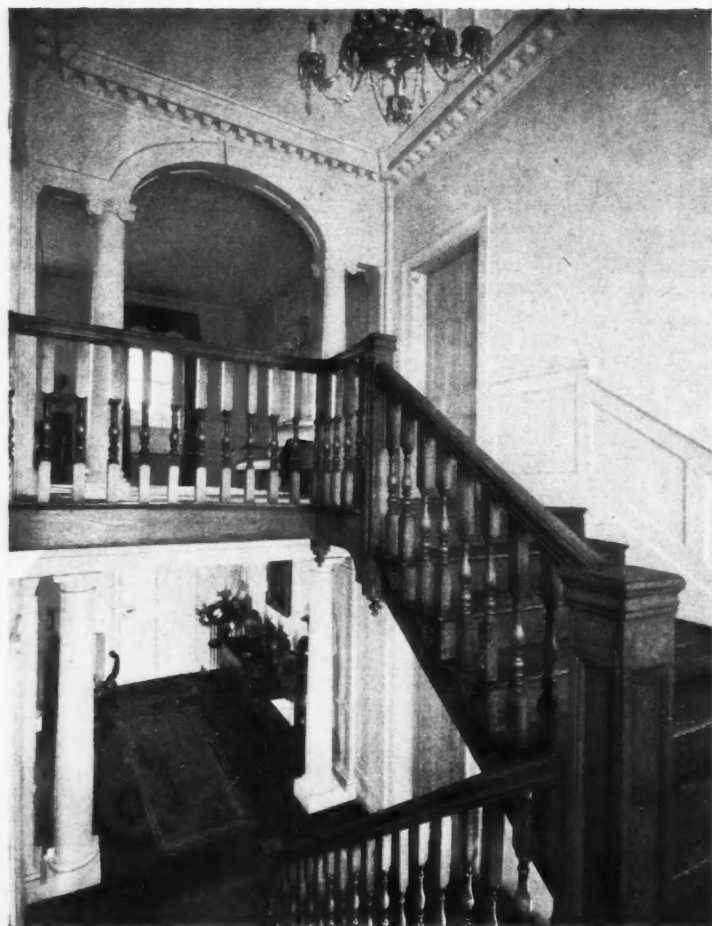
prospered, for, early in the next century, the house was enlarged by the addition of wings on either side of it, one of which, that facing west (Fig. 1), amounted almost to a fresh front. In those days of booming agriculture, with corn protected by the Corn Laws, it was

not uncommon for a man with a few hundred good arable acres to build himself a house of solid if modest worth, and to be able to spend a good deal on its decoration. A recent illustration of this fact was given by the history of Owletts, in Cobham, Kent, built by a yeoman farmer in 1684. Similarly Hall Place, as originally built, had a room either side of the entrance on each front and a generous staircase opposite the front door (Fig. 2). Likewise Owletts was enlarged early in the next century, though not so considerably as was Hall Place, a somewhat larger property and carrying with it the lordship of the manor. The

Foxcrofts, moreover, may have had other interests besides agriculture—have engaged in the produce trade, for example, which was raising substantial brick houses of admirable and similar design in Farnham, Chichester, and its other chief centres.

However that may be, occasion was taken when Hall Place was enlarged to obtain more space and dignity in the earlier portion. Casement windows were replaced by sashes to harmonise with the new front; rooms were wainscoted and given new chimneypieces, notably that to the right of the entrance (Fig. 3); and the spaces at the foot and head of the staircase were opened to the stairs, columns being introduced to support the structural framework (Fig. 2). A nice classical taste informed the latter operation, dictating the Tuscan for the lower order and an Ionic for the upper, which carries a graceful segmental arch (Fig. 9). But the staircase itself appears to have been retained from the 1680 building.

All three rooms to the right of the entrance, that is, the entry hall, the adjoining parlour, and the corner room in the addition, have now been run into one (Figs. 3 and 4); and a single large drawing-room occupies the two remaining thirds of the ground floor of the west wing (Fig. 5). But the latter's relative lack of height implies that this was not originally the case. Similarly the dining-room (Fig. 8), to the left of the entry, has been lengthened by the removal of its inner wall, the original line of which is indicated by a ceiling beam, so that now there is only a passage between the inner end of the dining-room and the south external wall. The original shape and proportions of the ground-floor rooms is given by the bedrooms above: that seen in Fig. 11 corresponds to the original size of the dining-room, and its corner fireplace suggests that the one below



(Left) 2.—FRONT DOOR AND UPPER LANDING FROM THE STAIRCASE

was also in the corner of the room, which is borne out by the present fireplace being close against the line of the former parti-wall. The Regency bedroom (Fig. 12), to the right of the staircase landing in Fig. 9, is over a morning room, forming the south-west corner of the 1680 house, and both have corner fireplaces. Mrs. Cubitt's room (Fig. 10) is above the further end of the drawing-room, with windows south and west, and the fireplace in its east wall.

Interesting as is this evidence of how a country family expanded its home between Good King Charles's and Sir Robert Walpole's epochs, the charm of the rooms to-day is predominantly due to the present owners. Mr. and Mrs. Cubitt made Hall Place their home shortly before the war, when its redecoration could include the nuances and niceties of the last years of civilised life as enjoyed during the late 1930s.

As a means of self-expression the art of furnishing—and it is an art—is inevitably transient. It is partly a matter of fashion, in so far as some of its elements—colour combinations and choice of objects—lose their first freshness after a time; requirements and domestic resources change also. Being a reflection of an individual's range of

interests and perceptions at a given time, it must either remain static and so lose its finer implications, or be modified accordingly. But it cannot be preserved in a museum, since the warmth of the affectionate touch, the scent of flowers, and the odour of a well-

kept house are essential ingredients. Another considerable element in it is the contribution of inheritance. Domestic taste as an art is frequently stifled almost at birth by excessive regard for inherited possessions; the house becomes a lumber-room or a mausoleum.

Yet one that wholly lacks some inherited oddities and grotesques, or historic mementoes of forbears, or some notable possessions of another generation, is felt to be wanting in atmosphere. If the art can be defined in a word, it is an art of association: the association of colours, shapes, ideas; and, obviously, of the relating of furnishings to function. But it is in the discrimination and subtlety of the less obvious associations that its finer shades are usually attained, and these are not dependent on abstruse historical knowledge. Indeed, too much knowledge, in this connection, makes for the deadness of the "period piece" or, still worse, the "collection."

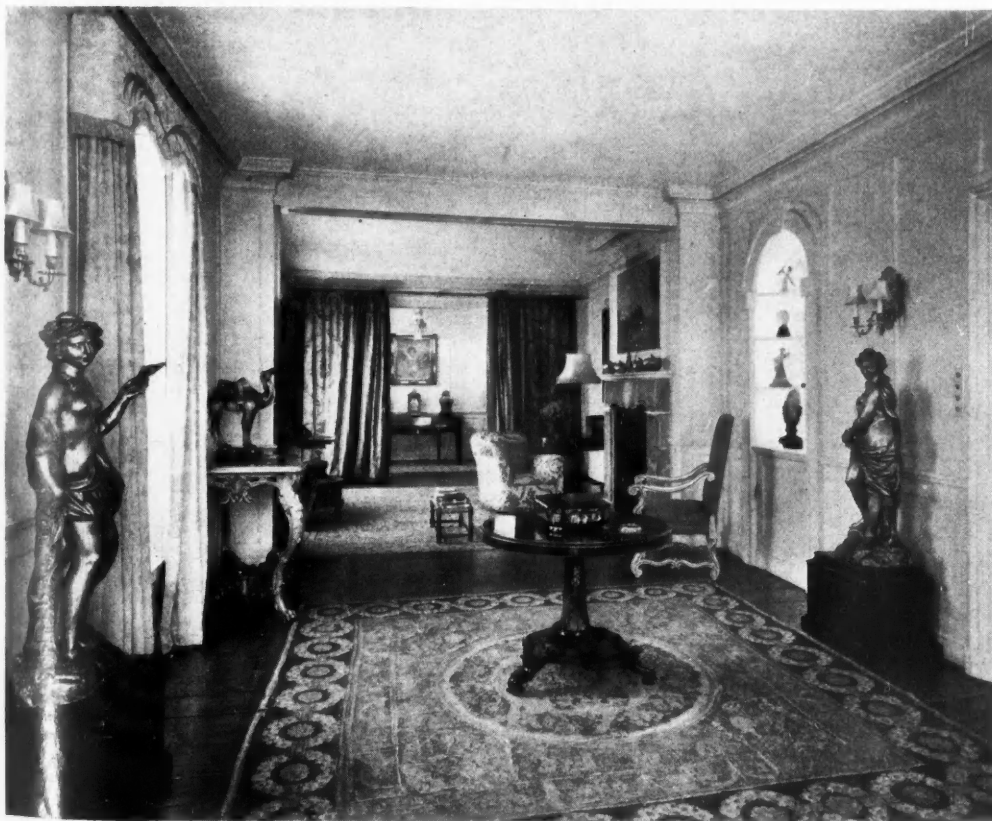
These rooms at Hall Place seem to illustrate this conception of the art of furnishing very well. They reveal a wide range of interests, the colour relationships are fresh and varied, and obviously a discriminating eye is responsible for the delightful juxtapositions of a very eclectic selection of objects, some of the more important of which Mrs. Cubitt inherited from her mother the Hon. Mrs. George Keppel.

The long hall (Fig. 3), with cream painted wainscot walls, is separable from the entrance by curtains of pale Aubusson tapestry. An Oriental rug predominantly yellow matches a yellow-ground chintz, with leaves of a black lacquer screen forming a background



3.—THE LONG HALL, FROM THE ENTRY

Cream walls, with yellow predominating in rugs and chintz, and contrasting notes of gold and black



4.—THE FURTHER END OF THE LONG HALL

The carved and gilt wood figures of the Seasons are French eighteenth century; the old needlework carpet is russet and green-black

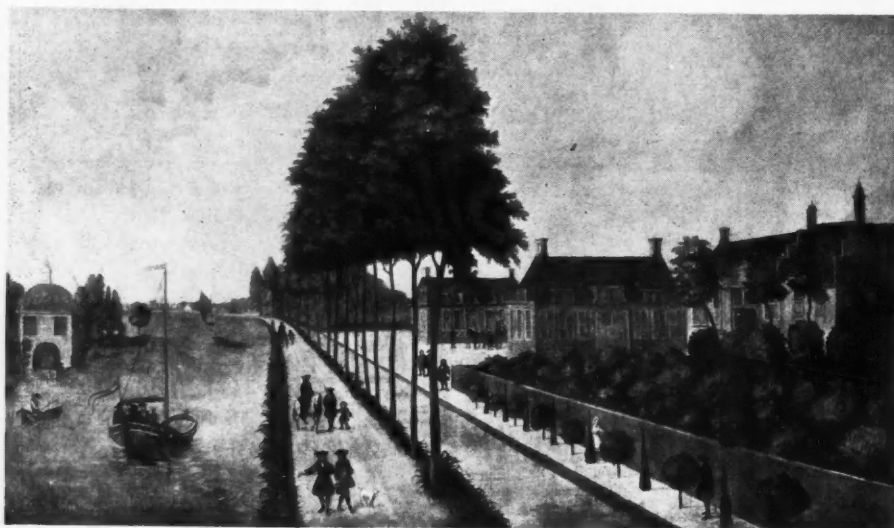
for flower arrangements in the window on the right. The furniture is usually arranged round the fireplace, leaving the further end of the hall in the nature of a passage to the drawing-room, and as such it is kept open but for a few decorative features. These include two alcoves for a group of early Chinese objects, and a group of four handsome figures of the Seasons, in carved and gilt wood, probably French early eighteenth century; a pair of Italian marble-topped console tables, and an old needlework carpet of rich golden browns and greeny black, with a Victorian black and gold lacquer circular pedestal table in its centre. Thus the hall can easily be cleared and, indeed, the whole be thrown into one for a party. The curtains of pale cream damask have a design of palm branches in green *appliqué* to the pelmets.

The drawing-room (Fig. 5) has four west windows looking down the bordered lawn seen in Fig. 1 and the broad vista along the slope

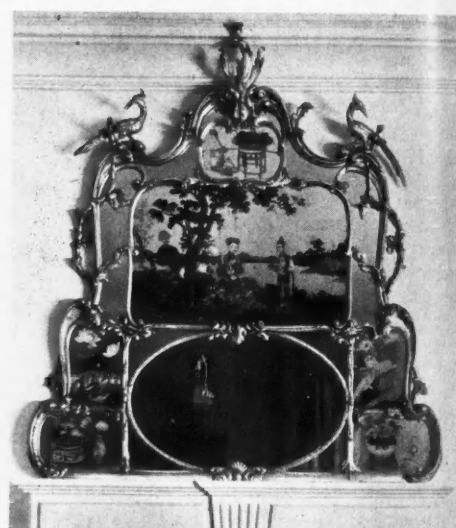


5.—DRAWING-ROOM

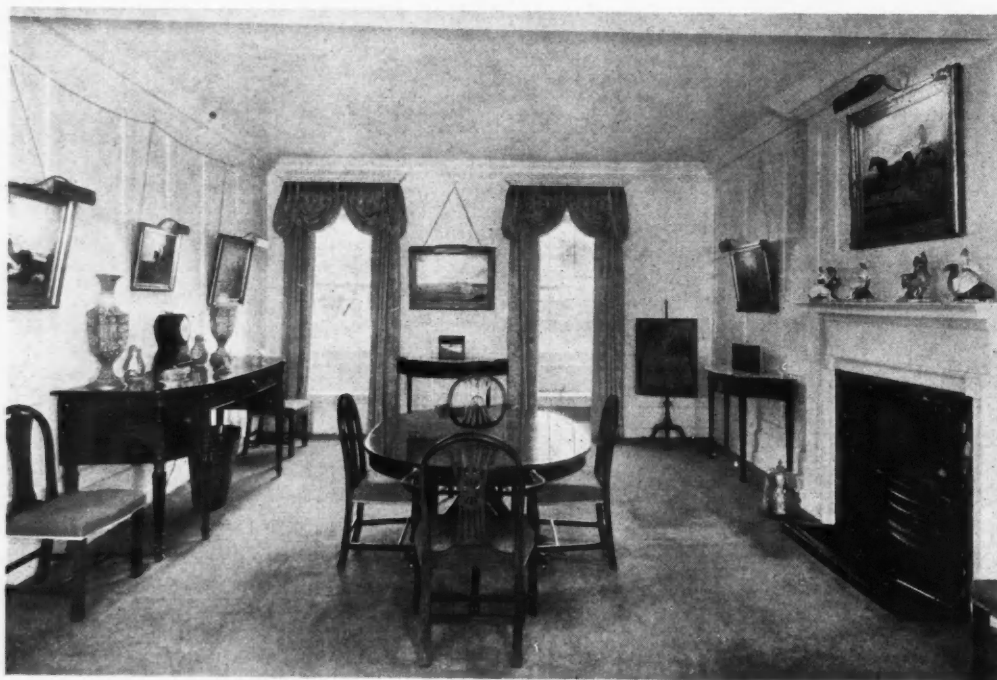
Pale green walls, pink and Indian red upholstery, grey carpet, and old Dutch scenes on the walls



6.—ONE OF THE DUTCH TOWNSCAPES IN THE DRAWING-ROOM



7.—CHINOISERIE MIRROR. Circa 1750, over the drawing-room fireplace



8.—DINING-ROOM. Cream walls and old sporting pictures

beyond, planted (as was suggested last week) when this part of the house was built about 1720. Its walls and ceiling are a pale green, the upholstery a light pink, with chair covers of Indian red and a close-fitted carpet of light grey-green. The curtain *lambrequins* in a striped green silk extend down the sides in front of the shutters concealing light silk curtains. This pale, clean colouring gives full value to that of the large bowls of flowers which form an essential part of the scheme, in this case of mauve and white lilac and crimson peonies. It had also to be related to the chief pieces of furniture, including an elaborate scarlet and gold lacquer cabinet opposite the fireplace, not seen in the illustration, the old Dutch townscapes on the two inner walls, and the superb Chinese Chippendale mirror above the fireplace. In this the main panel is a picture painted on mirror of a lady with attendants seated beneath a bluish tree beside a river; the subsidiary panels have vases of flowers, water-lilies, and pheasants all evidently done in China. The townscapes, of about

1700, introduce us to the fantastic Dutch tile world, with rosy brick, red-roofed villas besideavenued canals. An element of stylisation common to both representations allies these paintings visually with the chinoiserie of the mirror.

Colours from the same light palette are used for Mrs. Cubitt's bedroom: "Eton blue" walls, with shell pink chintz curtains and bed draperies, a white chintz with a design in primary colours, and beige and dun-colored Regency rugs. The old dove grey marble chimneypiece has bluejohn objects on it. The shallow bed alcove is flanked by modern wrought-iron consoles and mirror frames, painted the same shade as the walls. The little north bedroom (Fig. 11) is a design in black and white—the walls and all the upholstery white, the carpet black, the wood of bed and cupboard very dark—but for the gold of a richly naturalistic mirror frame.

In contrast to these light colourings, the Regency bedroom (Fig. 12) is full-blooded, with glowing mahogany and brass-mounted furniture, yellow walls, black carpet, and mellow primary colours in the patchwork quilt and needlework rugs. The black-framed pictures are a series of Admiral Keppel's naval victories.

At the head of the stairs an upper hall extends



10.—MRS. CUBITT'S BEDROOM. "Eton blue" walls, pink draperies



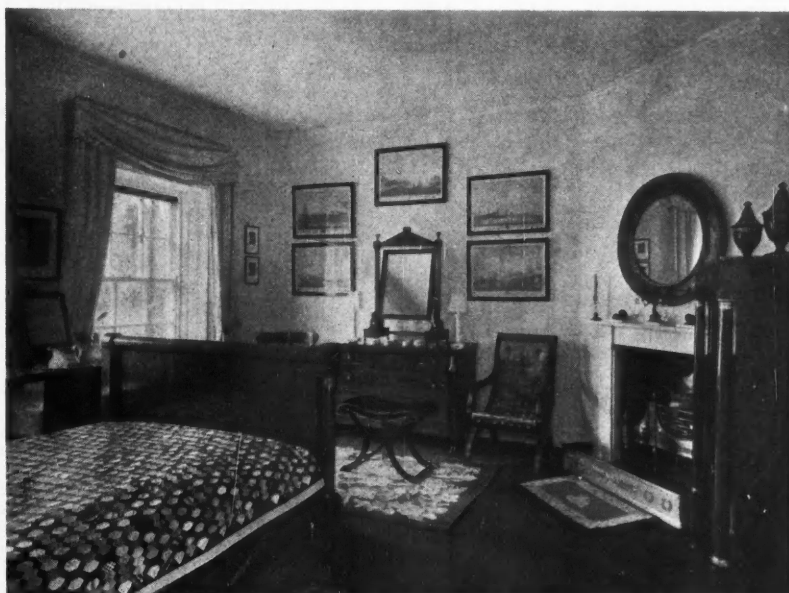
9.—THE STAIR HEAD
Cream walls, mulberry curtains



11.—NORTH BEDROOM. A design in white

along the north side of the house and contains oak furniture. The whole space, including the stairs, is cream painted, with curtains taking their mulberry and gold from the coats of a pair of black boys flanking the foot of the stairs and illustrated last week. This rich purple is crystallised in the upper hall in a large group of bluejohn set in an oak alcove.

The colouring and contents of these rooms have been given with some fullness as indicating the subtle association of visual and intellectual themes to which the art of furnishing had attained five years ago. It is an intimate art, deriving essentially from an individual's personality, but also owing a great deal to continuous traditions of civilisation: in this instance half the inspiration originates from old Isaac Foxcroft and his son's good solid taste in their manner of building. The family lived here till 1773 when Henry Foxcroft sold the property for £5,350 to Charles Remett, lord of the manor in 1802. He was followed by John Dunn, formerly his steward, who held the manor till the marriage of his only daughter to Captain Aubertin. With that family West Meon remained till purchased in 1894 by Mr. Henry C. Johnson. A Rev. Mr. Wigweed lived here in the nineteenth century—of whom Mrs. Cubitt remarks that it was a wonderful name for the job. Hall Place was acquired by the present owner in 1936.



12.—REGENCY BEDROOM
Yellow walls, black carpet, and rich tones in furniture and rugs

STRANGE SOUTH AFRICAN STORK

By CAPTAIN C. W. R. KNIGHT

VISITORS to, and in many cases residents of, the southern part of Cape Province, must have been, at some time or other, considerably puzzled by the enormous nests that are, from time to time, to be seen within a few yards of almost any road within a radius of 40 miles of Cape Town.

Usually built in the lower fork of an oak tree and often overhanging water, such gigantic affairs may well be taken for the home of some eagle or vulture. On closer inspection the nest, a great collection of branches, sticks and rubbish with a clay-lined entrance hole, is found to be, obviously, the home of some comparatively small bird; the entrance would not admit anything larger than a mallard.

These amazingly large and beautifully constructed nests are, in fact, the homes of a somewhat small, sombre-coloured, uninspiring bird allied to the stork tribe: the hamer-kop, or, to give it its English name, the hammer-head.

How such a small bird, particularly one belonging to the stork family, could ever succeed in building such a palatial home, passed my comprehension. After all, a normal stork builds a nest which is little more than a sturdy platform of sticks—easily put together but, one would think, exceedingly uncomfortable to live on. But the hammer-head's nest is perfectly constructed: a roof about 2 ft. thick, a small clay-reinforced entrance, which evilly-disposed snakes or owls would find difficulty in negotiating, and an inner chamber large enough comfortably to house a whole family of hammer-heads.

Imbued with the desire to photograph the manner in which the hammer-head builds its fortress home, I set out to discover a nest undergoing construction, but for several weeks I met with nothing but disappointments. One nest, in a grand position photographically, was occupied by a swarm of bees; another had been taken over by a Cape owl; a third was tenanted by a pair of kestrels. Not one semi-completed nest could I find.

But one day my daughter and I were driving along a lane some three miles from Stellenbosch when, giving me a nudge, she whispered:

"Look, Daddy! There's a hamer-kop on its nest."

Here was luck, indeed! There was the little brown stork standing on a half-built nest, and paying no attention to us or the presence of our car. We decided to withdraw without giving the bird cause for alarm and to return on the following day to see what could be done in the way of photography. I rather doubted if satisfactory pictures could be taken from the car; the distance seemed too great—probably some 20 yards. However, we should at least be at the proper elevation, for the lane ran along a bank and the tree grew from the edge of a stream which trickled below. If only some intervening branches could be removed, all might be well.

When we arrived the next morning there was no sign of the bird and, trusting that she would not return while we were there, I climbed the tree to see what a half-built hammer-head's nest looked like. It was shaped like a huge cup, or rather a cup-shaped basket, the sticks forming the inside intertwined with the neatness and precision of wickerwork. Its depth was probably 8 ins.

Without delay I scrambled down to get a small hatchet that we had brought; ascended once more, removed a branch and returned to the car to fix up the camera. Before I had succeeded in achieving my purpose the hammer-head alighted on the nest with a cluster of leaves in its beak and began to prod these into place.

For once photography proceeded according to plan—probably because we were hidden in the car and were working from such a distance. With the movie camera we filmed the manner



COCK AND HEN ON THE HALF-BUILT NEST

The cock fetched the sticks and leaves and the hen seemed to concentrate on interior decoration

in which the little brown stork brought along clumps of wet leaves and arranged them in the desired position; and her departure in search of fresh material—a small branch, perhaps—which was utilised with the same diligence. Day by day we visited the place and filmed the gradual completion of the home: when the roof had been added we judged that another two or three days would see the end of our job and looked forward to taking the pictures of the bird "mudding up"—or plastering with clay—the entrance to her abode.

On our next visit we waited for a much longer time than usual for the arrival of our subject—for almost three hours. And when she did put in an appearance she alighted on the roof of the nest with no stick, leaves or clay in her beak, and just stood there, almost motionless with her head tucked down between her shoulders as though undecided what to do next. Perhaps she had been wounded or was ill? Once she stepped forward and seemed to be trying to peer into her home. Then, again she resumed her attitude of dejection.

Suddenly, and to my utter astonishment, there appeared at the nest-entrance the reason for her distress—a grey squirrel! One of these much-maligned little creatures had decided to avail itself of the stately home and, what is more, became permanently established there. The hamer-kops, unwilling it seems to try conclusions with the intruder, withdrew from the scene but provided a curious sequel to this little story by commencing, without delay, a fresh nest in another tree less than 50 yards away!

It may be an instance of bird-psychology, it may have been a coincidence, but the fact remains that, whereas one bird (which I judge to have been the female) built the first nest all by herself, both birds



HUNDREDS OF BIRDS RETURNING TO A SANCTUARY IN CAPE PROVINCE

helped, with almost feverish haste, to construct the second.

While the male continually journeyed to and from the nest, bringing to it more sticks and clumps of leaves with which to strengthen its outer framework (and with what thrustings and twistings and tuggings did he work each new acquisition into position, his fine crest fairly vibrating with the energy of his efforts), the female concentrated all her attention on interior decoration—or so it seemed.

I was destined not to film the final stages in the construction of this nest either, for I had to dash off up-country to begin photographic operations on a crowned eagle's nest. However, I know that this time the storks succeeded in rearing a family for, on my return a few months later, I saw the fully-fledged young.

The hamer-kop is a quite common bird in South Africa; a fact which may, at first, strike one as being surprising, for one cannot say that many other birds, with the exception of some of the smaller varieties, are much in evidence. Other members of the stork family, numerous though such members may be, are all too seldom encountered.

Of course, one does see herons, egrets or storks in certain localities. On one of our trips up to the Zuurberg Mountains we saw, not far from Oudtshoorn, literally hundreds of European storks (*Ciconia ciconia*) which had, for the most part at least, migrated from, for instance, Holland or Germany, so as to escape the European winter. Since they were not nesting at that time of the year, they would prove to be anything but easy victims to anyone stupid or careless enough to try to destroy them.

In this part of the world the European or white stork feeds largely upon locusts and may be seen stalking about in search of such fare.



HAMER-KOPS' COMPLETED NEST

It has a roof about 2 ft. thick. The small entrance is reinforced with clay

Because of this custom it is considered to be "beneficial" and is consequently allowed to go on its way unharmed.

Eric Simon, of Stellenbosch, and I were shown the nest of a pair of white storks which I believe is, or was, the only known one in South Africa. The young had left it a month or so previously, the owner of the place proudly informed us. He certainly would never have permitted anyone to interfere with them.

But to return to the hamer-kop: it seems that the main reasons for its frequent occurrence are—that it is not gregarious and often builds

its nest in some position awkward to reach; that the bird itself is so sombrely clad and so generally unattractive, that it has little appeal to the man with the gun; and, perhaps most important, that its nest is often the home of poisonous snakes and if there is one thing that the average South African—white, black or coloured—will not do it is to put his hand into any hole that might, by the barest coincidence, harbour a snake.

Thanks to the activities of keen bird people there are various districts wherein herons and egrets may be seen in almost any field or marsh that one passes. Near Addo, in Cape Province, we were amazed at the numbers of these birds (as well as ducks or cormorants, nesting inland) that we saw. We soon discovered the reason for this unusual abundance of life.

A British ex-naval officer had started—and is rigidly conserving—a sanctuary for all such creatures. No one, coloured or otherwise, dares to interfere with the inmates. It was a grand experience to stand on a sand-bank and watch hundreds, it may have been thousands, of birds—herons, egrets and snake-birds—nesting in bushes a few yards away.

As evening closed in a great flock of them came in from the west. Against fleecy clouds, orange-pink in the light of the setting sun, they made a magnificent picture.

The light was beginning to fail as we left, but that was not the reason for our failing to identify another intensely interesting bird that, to tell the truth, completely confounded us. Much like a stork it was, in size and coloration, but with a somewhat downward curved beak and bright red face, bare of feathers! What could it be? We later discovered that it was another strange stork, but one that so resembles an ibis that it bears the misleading name of wood ibis (*Ibis ibis*).

THE CARNIVOROUS SLUG

By A. GAVIN BROWN

EVERYONE who does gardening is familiar with the common black or white slugs and probably knows only too well the vast amount of damage they can do to young plants. There is, however, another kind of slug which is neither so common nor so well known. Fortunately for the gardener it is not a vegetarian like the common slugs but is a meat-eater which is believed to live exclusively on a diet of earthworms, although, since it lives in the soil, it is difficult to be sure of this. When it is mentioned in gardening books it is usually found in the chapter on Garden Friends, but whether it can rightfully claim this distinction must depend on whether we consider the worm as friend or foe. I think the earthworms are usually considered to be beneficial to the soil, although, of course, they can be a nuisance on well-kept lawns. Testacella—that is the name of this carnivorous slug—may well be defined as a neutral and be left undisturbed, as it is not definitely a friend or an enemy, and it is not sufficiently numerous to make much difference to the worm population.

It is believed not to be a native of this country but is thought to have been introduced into gardens and nurseries from Spain or Portugal in the soil on the roots of imported plants. It is a little larger than the common garden slug; is of a yellowish white colour, and may be easily distinguished by being less slimy and by the presence of a small oyster-shaped shell on its tail.

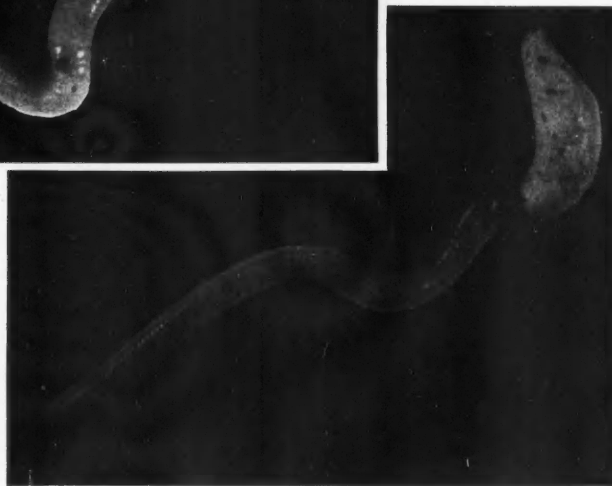
It usually lives in the soil and seldom

comes to the surface except after heavy rain, probably since the rain drives the worms to the surface of the soil. During very dry weather it is known to bury itself to a depth of 3 ft. and during winter it hibernates in the soil. The testacella, when in quest of food, creeps down a worm burrow until it reaches its prey; it then shoots out its harpoon, seizes the worm securely and then proceeds to devour it. The harpoon is really a very complex organ, the greater part being its formidable tongue which is covered with very sharp sickle-shaped teeth. There are about 50 rows of them and between 30 and 70 teeth in a row.* The worm, although it may struggle, seems incapable of escape, and it is gradually drawn in over the tongue and is cut to shreds by the teeth.

The most remarkable thing about this animal is that, although it is only about an inch to an inch and a half long, it can be seen

A TESTACELLA SLUG DEVOURING A WORM MUCH BIGGER THAN ITSELF

(Left) Soon after the slug was found, its horns plainly visible. (Below) After it had been washed, its horns withdrawn.



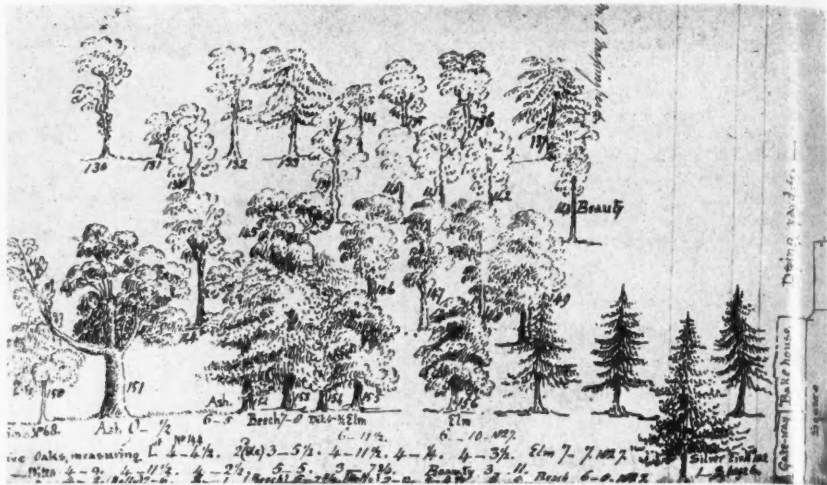
devouring a worm about three inches long. The illustrations show a testacella slug in the act of devouring a worm much bigger than itself. In the first the slug is seen soon after it was found, with its short blunt horns plainly visible. The other photograph was taken after the slug had been washed clean of soil, a process to which it seemed to object, as its horns were withdrawn and soon afterwards it abandoned its prey.

AN ESTATE FORESTRY RECORD

WHEN were records first instituted of plantings and fellings in estate woodlands? When, in fact, did silviculture begin in this country?

And which actually is the oldest of such records now existing? Answers to these questions would throw light on another: how soon, and to what extent, did conscious landscape design affect estate woodland policy as distinct from economic and other factors? On the forestry side, records are scanty. But from literary sources, and the evidence of surviving plantations, the intentional formation of landscape clearly begins with the interest that produced and was produced by Evelyn's *Silva* (first edition, 1664) and acquaintance with Le Notre's "landscape architecture" at Versailles and elsewhere.

The *Gunby Hall Tree Book*, preserved at that house in Lincolnshire, and kindly lent for examination by Field-Marshal Sir Archibald Montgomery Massingberd, must be one of the oldest of such records. It is a large vellum-bound ledger, begun for recording leases, rents, etc., about 1765, but later devoted to forestry records, some of which, evidently copied from older records, carry the earliest notices back to 1661. A sheet of paper, in the writing of William Meux Massingberd (died 1780), tabulates plantations from 1661 to 1748, the probable date of its compilation, and states that "the oldest Grove of Oaks in the Low Hall Ground" was planted in the former year. The great majority of the plantings recorded were of ash; or in some cases they were sowings with ash keys, or acorns. In 1737 a pingle (*syn* pightle, a small enclosure) was sown with ash keys and acorns. In one instance the life of the trees is deducible; an ash holt planted in 1694 is entered as replanted with oak in 1742, the ash being stated to have been cut down afterwards in 1748. The demand was evidently for



TREE SKETCHES BY PEREGRINE LANGTON MASSINGBERD. Circa 310

From his records of trees and plantations at Gunby Hall, Lincolnshire

young ash, not only for implements, etc., but probably for some purposes for which soft wood poles are used now. Incidentally, the apparent preponderance of ash, if it was at all widespread, must have given the countryside—probably not all enclosed at that date—a different character from that with which we are familiar, but suggested by the feathery foliage predominating in some early water-colours.

Between 1670 and 1750 there are 25 entries of plantations made. All give the impression of being purely utilitarian, except for certain beeches and elms planted near the house.

But in 1804 Peregrine Langton Massingberd reopened the vellum ledger in order to begin "An account of the alterations I make in the old Plantations." Both aim and method had greatly changed by then. The plantations made were larger and more frequent, and much more attention was paid to appearance, the kinds of trees planted had increased, and the practice of sowing had practically ceased. It was the

peak period of landscape consciousness, when Sir Uvedale Price, Payne Knight and Repton were conducting a pamphlet controversy on the niceties of landscape creation, and every landowner took as much interest in the scenery of his estate as we do in the planting of a herbaceous border. Peregrine Massingberd was a competent artist himself, and enlivened the ledger with excellent sketches of some of his groups of trees, one of which is reproduced.

The quantities of seedlings planted reads impressively: "About the beginning of 1804, planted 10,000 ash plants"; "raised in the spring of 1804 about 2,000 Spanish chestnuts and near 200 walnuts"; "1805, planted 2,000 oaks from 6 to 12 ft. high in different parts of the estate." Between 1804 and 1808, a total of 42,158 trees were planted. The numbers rose to 26,000 in 1808, and to 83,416 in 1809; then fell to 45,375 in 1810. The total from 1804 to 1824 amounted to 402,323. Ten thousand ash seedlings were

bought for a six-acre plantation from a local nurseryman. The latter offered a particular fine in poplar varieties at 6d. each.

But careful attention was given to details. Frequent references to trees planted in hedge-rows probably indicates increased enclosure and throws light on the richness of the landscape to-day in hedgerow timber. Thus: "put a walnut, horsechestnut, birch, and beech tree in the hedge . . ." "1806, set alternately 3 oaks, a Scots fir, and 3 Spanish chestnut in an old hedge at the side of the little lane to the farm in the occupation of Charles Packer (son of my father's old tenant at Langton and known by poor old Faith Moore's having hung herself in the sitting room)." Peregrine Massingberd also experimented in transplanting trees up to 30 ft. high and worked out a method for artificially producing picturesque forms such as charmed amateurs in ancient woodlands. He thought that a monster beech, of the kind seen in Burnham Beeches, could be produced by planting a number of young trees very close together; or several species could be planted together to grow up picturesquely interpenetrating. Most of these seem to have died, and 18 single trees planted in the park in 1803 are noted in 1825 as "long since dead."

The first reference to softwood plantations is in 1806, when a field was planted with ash, spruce fir, larch, and Scotch fir, but it is noted that "all are to be felled when the Ash poles are fit, then to fill up with young ash to continue for poles only, there being scarcely any fir upon the estate." Apparently that was a strong argument for ruling out conifers, which were here used only as nurses to the ash. Picturesque theory was divided upon the aptitude of firs for forming part of a landscape. A curious technical device (1807) was for a plantation made the previous year to be dug and set with potatoes to break the ground; but not, it is emphasised, with beans or cabbages "which flog the young trees and exhaust the soil."

George III's Jubilee, which was commemorated on many estates by the planting of trees—probably the first of such public events to be so commemorated—was marked at Gunby by a Jubilee plantation of American acorns; not a very happy choice in view of that King's political history!

These notes throw some useful factual reflections on the care and expense devoted by landowners of the period to the amenities of the countryside. It is significant that at Gunby, operations were not confined to a park or elaborate landscape, but were spread over a typical East Lincolnshire agricultural estate. The loving labour of successive squires received, indeed, an exceptional reward when Tennyson, it is believed, coined his well-known phrase "a haunt of ancient peace" with reference to Gunby. Similarly, all over England, we enjoy the scenery created in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, not only unheeding how it was brought into being but how it will be perpetuated, if, indeed, it is. C. H.



A WALNUT AND AN OAK PLANTED BY PEREGRINE MASSINGBERD circa 1805

A PILGRIMAGE TO THE HEATH

A Golf Commentary by BERNARD DARWIN

EVERYBODY has at some time or other revisited the scene of former pleasures and found himself lost and bewildered by the changes and gently bemoaning the absence of once-familiar landmarks. This befell me the other day when I walked once again upon storied Blackheath. Having received a very pleasant invitation to luncheon near by, I set out deliberately early so as to enjoy a sentimental and solitary ramble upon the heath, and try to trace some of the old holes. In my mind's eye I had a tolerably clear picture of the holes as I had played them, generally for Cambridge against the then invincible Mr. F. S. Ireland (I once halved with him), and though I knew that the war had laid its heavy hand on the heath, I had little doubt that I could find my way about. With a great thrill of memory I got off my bus at it crested the hill and deposited me on the sacred turf, and five minutes later I was utterly lost. Admittedly I made a bad start, since my recollection had played me tricks and I had misplaced the clubhouse, but even so something of destructive magic had surely befallen the heath. At long last I did find the club-house, with a brass plate on the gate still announcing its ancient glory. I found too what I take to have been "Whitfield's Mount," a monticle with trees and a railing round it and a pond beyond, which one had to skirt with a tee shot, but that was really all.

Since I came home I have looked at the place in Mr. W. E. Hughes's engaging book *Chronicles of Blackheath Golfers* and am a little, but only a very little, clearer in my head. I still feel like poor Silas Marner when, after many years, he made a pilgrimage to find Lantern Yard, where had been the chapel, the centre of his youthful life. "It's gone," he said. "Lantern Yard's gone. It must have been here, because here's the house with the overhanging window—I know that—it's just the same; but they've made this new opening—the old place is all sweep away." Doubtless the process of sweeping away had been going on for a long while before I ever saw the heath. Mr. Hughes, who wrote in 1897, said: "The course has certainly become easier. Deep hollows in the pits have been filled up, steep banks sloped down and whins uprooted or burnt year after year." I did not expect to find whins at this time of day, but I did hope to see my friends the old gravel pits, through which I had ploughed my way with a driving iron, and where were they? They seem to have almost wholly vanished and I saw nothing but a flat expanse, a pleasant place still, a wonderful green "lung" so near London, but sadly unlike a golf course.

I believe, I am sure of nothing, but I believe that I found those two tremendous long holes, the fourth and fifth. There was something familiar in the corner in which had been the fourth green. Indeed I would have sworn to it, but for the absence of the pit. The straight line to the hole ran, as I remember it, through the pit, but the lies there, except for Mr. Ireland and his heavy iron, were "very fierce," and the longest way round, by skirting the pit, was sometimes the shortest way home. I think Horace's mythical companion James Macpherson must have gone round the pit when he said, on arriving at the green, that he felt as if he had been driving ever since he had been a little boy. The length is still there, though it has shrunk a little, perhaps because one played it with a gutty, but the pit that made the hole has gone, and it would be but a dull hole to-day. Nevertheless in the words of Meg Merrilies, "it was a blythe bit ance."

I am afraid the shade of Mr. William Innes (the fine red-coated gentleman so familiar in Lemuel Abbott's picture) must be grieved indeed if he ever revisits the glimpses of the heath. Thank goodness the Royal Blackheath Golf Club with its proudly guarded traditions still flourishes in its Eltham home, but I cannot help feeling a little sad that the original nursery

of golf in England is now reduced to such a pass as it is. I wish there could be some "frail memorial still erected nigh" to tell future generations of the golfers who once played on the heath, even as there is on Broad-halfpenny where the men of Hambledon played cricket. Of course, nobody seeing the place now for the first time will ever believe that it was fit for golf, and so I say, as I have often said before, that there were and still are many, many golf courses vastly and essentially inferior to Blackheath. It had at least one quality which no one can despise in his heart. If one had to play someone whom one believed to be a better man than oneself, the heath was one of the very last places on which one would have chosen to encounter him. It brought out the golfer's strength and his weaknesses.

My sentimental journey had at least a happy and a golfing ending, and one moreover that reminded me again of Mr. William Innes. Those who know the picture will recall that in the background there is dimly shown a building standing among pretty trees. That building I have always known to be Morden College, and that until I went there was, I am ashamed to say, almost all I did know about Morden College, save indeed that I had heard the romantic story of Sir John Morden. This eminent Turkey merchant of the seventeenth century fitted out three ships to go to the East. They were apparently lost and Sir John's fortune with them. Long years afterwards his ships literally came home; he was restored to affluence and as a thank-offering he built this restful home hard by the heath for other merchants who had fallen on evil days.

He had Wren to help him, and what a lovely place that great man built him! I am no architect to describe it, but quite lovely I am sure it is, with its cloistered quadrangle and Sir John and Lady Morden standing in effigy over the gateway. The trees have grown up since Lemuel Abbott's day and now almost shroud the College from the heath. It is a home of the cuckoo and the woodpecker; I should like to add of the nightingale, but that would not be accurate. The heath with its intersecting roads

and constant rumble of lorries is but a few yards away, but the only sound I heard there was the essentially rustic purring of the mowing machine. All that was lacking was that other country sound of the "well wheel's creaking tongue." If ever there was a haunt of peace this is surely it.

Moreover the mowing machine had been doing its work to good purpose, and here I come to the golfing part of my pilgrimage. In the garden is an 18-hole putting course, and by lucky chance I arrived on the day on which the summer putting season opened. I had the honour of opening it in a round with the Warden, who very properly was standing no nonsense from strangers on his home green. Not having been on a putting green for a sadly long time I fancied I should putt the ball clean off the course, but on the contrary my difficulty, for a long time insuperable, was to get up to the hole, the green being as yet somewhat slow. As the summer advances I believe it grows fast and "kittle" enough, and if I ever putt there again, as I hope I may, I shall no doubt run not only out of holing but out of bounds into the flower beds. Incidentally it seemed odd and almost iconoclastic to be putting into holes with tins in them at Blackheath, for the seven holes on the heath had never bowed to this modern fashion. They were still exactly as they were when Mr. Innes played and his Greenwich pensioner, with the suspicious-looking bottle sticking out of his pocket, handed him his wooden putter.

I walked across the heath again (it was then that I found Whitfield's Mount) and took my bus from the Green Man which was once the headquarters of the old Blackheath golfers, when they left the Chocolate House towards the end of the eighteenth century. Soon the bus had taken me down the hill and into the less engaging regions of New Cross, and I woke from my dream of red coats and fore caddies and gravel pits. It had been a pleasure akin to pain to see the heath again, in its changed form, but at least I have my picture of it, as it once was, tucked safely away in my memory. Nothing can take that from me.

THE MILKMAID < By E. L. GRANT WATSON

JO, who is our milkmaid, is a tall young woman rising eighteen years. Advisedly I say woman, for no mere girl could take the essential tasks of the farm so lightly on her shoulders, milk the cows, feed and clean, and keep them in the very apple of her eye, as indeed she does. They are for her like cumbersome, somewhat mentally-deficient children, loved and studied in their idiosyncrasies, forestalled in their whimsies, sympathised with, and punished for greediness and perverseness, and in their stolid bovineness grown familiar with her heart-strings!

In stature and the way of planting her feet, firmly yet lightly, our milkmaid is like a young Juno, or perhaps when straw and chaff cling about her, and with purple cabbages in her barrow, she might better suggest Ceres come from the festival of autumn. Her brush of hair, thicker than foxes' tails, though fine and tangled, frames her face, falling to her shoulders. With meditative expression, as of the germination of seeds of inward thought, she goes with confident steps about her work; although aware of the outward events she is dreaming her dreams, one of which at least is of animals and the earth.

Of her charges, she admits to liking Phoebe the best, though Phoebe is by no means the best milker. Phoebe is a Guernsey, mottled yellow and white with white socks, and there are things that Phoebe sees that other cows do not see. She has a way of gazing fixedly into space; she shies unexpectedly at the invisible, snorts and breathes deeply. In short, Phoebe

sees ghosts, day-time and night-time ghosts, and what these ghosts are like Phoebe only knows. She is a tyrant, the mistress of her three companions, making herself felt, horning their unoffending buttocks and sides. She has her dignity, is very tame, loves to be stroked and patted, yet has wild movements, never quite to be trusted, and on moonlight nights will gallop like a calf, pursuing the tom cat that has dared to stray too near. In the white light, her breath hovers like a cloud about her.

Paradise is a second-calver, and by that a 12-month younger than Phoebe. She is our best milker; rather a stupid cow, though amiable, her quarter of Guernsey dominated by three parts of Devon. She comes from the meadow with full udders scattering white drops with every step.

Melanie is a black Kerry and elderly and well behaved; her huge, pointed horns might make her mistress, if she but used them, but she takes a humble place as third, and can be relied on for doing the sensible thing, so far as cows can be sensible.

Jennifer, a Shorthorn heifer, is everything that Melanie is not. She will always go the wrong way if she can; she is greedy, obstinate and naughty, has a vulgar, dissipated expression which is somehow oddly tempered with pathos by her white eyelashes. The milkmaid has a place for her in her affections, and undeserved tit-bits, although she is often exasperated and administers sound thwacks.

To be a milkmaid is not merely to be able to milk cows, though milking is no small art,

for cow and milker must be in harmony for the milk to flow readily and in kindness. She is the food-grower and the food-preparer, no mean tasks if the meals are to be clean and appetising. She is the cleaner of the stalls, the guardian and, on occasions, the nurse and obstetrician; she wins the ever-increasing confidence of her charges.

At her second calving, Phoebe showed significant signs a month before her appointed time. "I feel as though she were going to have her calf," said the milkmaid, but this seemed

unlikely as there were still full four weeks to go. We consulted a local farmer, who kindly looked in to give his opinion. He was a man to inspire confidence, having lifelong experience and owning a herd of 12 cows.

"No, she won't be coming down yet; not for a long time," then, with a shadow of doubt: "Not for a week or more, at any rate. Chances are she'll go her full time."

"Do you think she will?" said Jo doubtfully, frowning.

"She's all right," said the farmer.

Jo was still doubtful, but we tried to reassure her, and thought we had done so. But later that night, when we were all abed, Jo took down her blankets and slept on a truss of straw beside the cow, and at four in the morning delivered a still-born calf.

In such fashion does our milkmaid know her charges, and they, as they gaze at her from their wide brown eyes, feel in dim animal fashion that they trust her, and, as far as their capacity goes, I think they love in return.

CORRESPONDENCE

RURAL WORKERS' COTTAGES

SIR,—Your correspondent Mr. E. H. Courage seems to do scant justice to the winning design in the Northampton competition. It is really an excellent plan and actually little room is wasted on passages, but the plans do not reproduce to a small scale so well as could be desired. The design placed second scores in this respect. The cottage on one floor such as is described would make a satisfactory dwelling, but would require careful planning if provision had to be made for five fireplaces.

On one point I should differ from your correspondent, and that is with the suggestion of a kitchen range in the living-room. If a range is fitted in the roomy scullery, which in effect becomes a kitchen, then I think a useful semi-open fireplace might be provided in the living-room—one with low hobs and all in fire-brick with a simple architrave and shelf. This would allow of food being kept hot and a place for kettles either on one of the hobs or a simple trivet in front of the fire.—C. J. B., *Stratford-on-Avon*.

FILKINS

SIR,—It was pleasant to see a glimpse of Filkins Hall in a photograph of Mr. Hussey's article in your issue of April 28, as I prepared the plans for the re-building in 1913 for my old friend, the late Colonel B. de Sales La Terrière, generally known as "The Hatter." After the fire in 1876, it was left rather derelict.

Mr. Sam Groves carried out the work with his usual love of the Cotswold tradition.

In the days when people thought less of these matters, Colonel La Terrière and his artistic wife bought up other wonderful old houses, notably Grove Place, Hampshire (*COUNTRY LIFE*, November 26, 1904), a gem of early 16th-century brickwork, Burford Priory (*COUNTRY LIFE*, March 4, 1911), and lastly, even the ruins of Minster Lovell, about 1918, later handed over to the Office of Works and carefully preserved. The affection for the beauty of these ancient buildings urged their enthusiasm, never considering gain or loss in their undertakings. Sir Stafford's new buildings under Mr. Morley Horder and Mr. Stanley Roth would I feel sure have delighted them.—CHARLES ARMSTRONG (retired F.R.I.B.A.), *Warwick*.

CHURCHES WITH TWO NAVES

SIR,—In your issue of April 28 a correspondent writes of a double-naved church at Hannington in Northamptonshire.

There is in Flintshire, too, this type of two-naved church, in the Vale of Clwyd. This is known as the Clwydian type of ecclesiastical architecture. The churches consist of two naves of equal dimensions. The Dominican church at Toulouse is of the same type. Incidentally the Dominicans were favourites at the time of Edward I. Between 1268-93 a Dominican friar, Eineon, was Prior of Rhuddlan in Flintshire and later became Bishop of St. Asaph. He founded this type of church of which

there are several specimens in the Vale of Clwyd, Hope, Carnoys, Rhuddlan, St. Asaph Parish Church, and Llanarmon yn Vale.—A. R. MADDOCKS, *Flint*.

SIR,—Your correspondent writing about the bisected nave of Hannington Church, Northamptonshire, might be interested to learn that it is not by any means unique. I have a note of others at Caythorpe, Lincolnshire, Crayford, Kent, and Clatford, Wiltshire, and if my memory is correct St. John's, Leeds, and St. Germans.



THE TITHE BARN AT ABBOTSBURY

See letter: *The Tithe Barn*

There were several abroad in Wisby, Gotland.—ALICE MARCON, 7, *Hamilton Road, Oxford*.

THE TITHE BARN

SIR,—Some of the most interesting survivals of monastic times are the great tithe barns scattered about the country, in which the tithes, when those were of produce, were stored. Tributes of one-tenth of the produce or increase of lands were paid to the clergy—or the owners of the tithes—for religious purposes or relief of distress.

At the time of the Dissolution of the Monasteries and religious houses many of these were given, with the tithes appertaining thereto, to laymen, and passed with the estates to their successors. In the course of time these tithes were often exchanged, by mutual agreement, for a permanent annual sum. In 1918 compulsory redemption was provided for.

Among the tithe barns still stand-

ing is the very fine one at Abbotsbury, near Weymouth, a survival of a Benedictine abbey which gives Abbotsbury its name.—C. H., *Bournemouth, Hampshire*.

A VERY RARE HALL-MARK

SIR,—I have read the enquiry, in *Collectors' Questions* (April 14), with regard to unknown marks on certain pieces of plate. I suggest that the plate was made in one of the British Colonies, possibly Jamaica.

It is reasonable to suppose that

that particular annual letter to copy, added an additional date letter of his own design of P, instead of a town mark.—E. J. B. H. (L.-Cdr. R.N.V.R.).

MYSTERIOUS MILLSTONES

SIR,—In a recent issue of *COUNTRY LIFE* Mr. Poucher asks how the millstones came to be on Stanage Edge. May I suggest they were cut on the spot by local masons?

Stanage is not the only locality in the Peak District where these stones are to be found lying about. There are (or were when I was a boy) several around the entrance to the Bat Cave, Shining Cliff Wood, opposite Whatstandwell, Derbyshire; and my surmise as to their being made there is based on the evidence of this cave having yielded traces of occupancy.—R. COWLINSHAW, *Clapham Common, S.W.4*.

ROLLED-PAPER WORK

SIR,—I am most interested in the account of rolled-paper work on page 778 in your May 5 number. Lady Dorothy Nevill was a very great friend of my late uncle and aunt, Lord and Lady Haliburton of 57, Lowndes Square, with whom I lived. In our drawing-room there was a large cabinet entirely made of this rolled-paper work, called by my aunt "papier maché," made by Lady Dorothy as a gift for my uncle and aunt. I remember it so well. Even the legs on which the cabinet stood were in rolled-paper work. It was a very elaborate affair of many colours. It opened with doors in the middle and had several small drawers much decorated with pearls and coloured beads let in the paper. It really was a wonderful work of art, and must have taken a very long time to do. It was kept under a muslin cover so that the dust did not get to it. On the death of my aunt all her things were sold for the benefit of the Bexhill Convalescent Home and I have no idea who bought this cabinet.—VIOLET D'ARCY, 69, *Grosvenor Street, W.1*.

THE GRENADIERS

SIR,—Major Penn's claim in a recent number of *COUNTRY LIFE* that the Grenadier Guards are the only regiment whose title was earned in the field of battle was no doubt made solely with regard to the British Army. In the Indian Army there is a regiment of Grenadiers, in which the two senior battalions have both earned their title in the field of battle. The first of them earned its title of Grenadiers some 30 years prior to the Grenadier Guards in 1783. A force composed of the Black Watch and the 8th Bombay Native Infantry was besieged at Mangalore in Southern India and, as a result of their heroic conduct the title of Grenadiers was bestowed upon the Indian battalion.

A sister battalion earned the same title in 1818 when the battalion, practically unaided, fought of the whole strength of the Peshwa's army at Corygaun. These two battalions were then formed into the 1st Grenadier Regiment. Since then there have been many changes of regimental number and name but the title



A SEEDLING GERMINATED ON THE PALM TREE
(Left) SIX BRANCHING STEMS, AND FOUR CROWNS OF LEAVES

See letter: *Freaks of the Coconut Palm*

Your correspondent gives an answer to this question when she writes: "Could we not learn from the Swedes, who, with so much less to choose from, have been so successful in their presentation of their northern culture?" How many of us visiting the folk-museums of Scandinavia—Aarhus in Denmark, the Norsk Folke-museum in Norway, the Nordiska Museet in Sweden—have not shared this thought? How many of us have not been inspired with the dynamic spirit that pervades these witnesses of Scandinavian culture? Surely there is a splendid opportunity to establish regional folk-museums throughout our own country. Abundant material is at hand, much of it already collected in our museums and in private hands, while a vast amount lies in every corner of the land waiting to be gathered and turned to good purpose—much of it to be rescued before time plays its deadly stroke, and it be lost for ever.

The enclosed photographs of a 17th-century Lancashire cheese-press will illustrate this fact. Here is a witness of an industry now long forgotten in South-west Lancashire, yet for many centuries a necessary piece of mechanism in the production of cheese. It was lying neglected in a farm-yard, as the photographs show, but has recently been re-assembled in the Rufford Village Museum—a museum to illustrate the folk culture of the South-west Lancashire region.

The science of folk culture is often misinterpreted through an ignorance of its terminology. The word "folk" is commonly associated with the lower class or peasant type; while "culture" has acquired a Teutonic tone which leads many away from its true meaning. "Folk" does not refer to any certain social group, but is a generic term including all degrees of society, and "culture" here is understood in the light of man's struggle towards civilisation: his efforts to dissociate himself from primitive instincts and

to move forward towards freedom of spirit and the good way of life.

In Britain through the centuries there have been formed by the mental and physical labour of men, regions of folk culture. They differ from each other in custom and tradition as do their geographical position, their soil, and their climate—the ground on which a village stands will tell you its history. Each region has its distinctive architecture, industries and crafts, agricultural methods, tools of work, and domestic chattels. These many regional patterns of life merge into a great design which is a true picture of Britain. Therefore it would seem that a well-planned series of regional museums of folk culture would be an essential feature in post-war years if we are to inculcate in the minds of our children, and ourselves, an awareness of the spirit that has given us the British Way of Life.—PHILIP ASHCROFT JUN., Hon. Curator, Rufford Village Museum, Rufford Old Hall, near Ormskirk, Lancashire.

FOR A HEREFORDSHIRE SMITH

SIR,—A fitting tribute to the village blacksmith is to be seen on an old tombstone in the lovely churchyard at Allensmore, Herefordshire. A carving shows the craftsman at work over

During the past 100 years the cormorant has been looked upon as a "doom bird" by the people of Boston, Lincolnshire. In September, 1860, one of these birds was observed perched on a pinnacle of the famous Boston Stump. Later in the day came the news that one of the town's most illustrious sons had been drowned with his eldest boy in Lake Michigan, U.S.A. He was Mr. Herbert Ingram, M.P. for the town and the founder of the *Illustrated London News*.

Again, on April 16 two cormorants were seen and a month later an ex-mayor died, another bird appearing the same evening.

There were other visits of the "doom birds" between these two events but unfortunately I have no information upon them.—L. A. HORNBY, Old Trafford, Manchester.

PUCK AND HOB

SIR,—I was interested to read in COUNTRY LIFE some time ago, in an article about Puck names, mention of names beginning with "Hob" which might be regarded as equivalent to "Puck."

A house not far south of Lancaster, which has been owned by my maternal ancestors since it was built, according to family tradition, by one



THE BLACKSMITH AT HIS TRADE

See letter: *For a Herefordshire Smith*

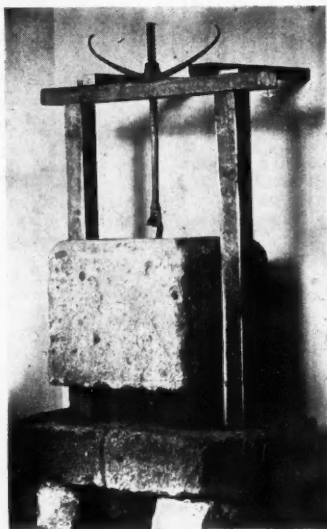
his anvil, in the act of fashioning a horseshoe. At his feet are the tools of his trade.—J. DENTON ROBINSON, Darlington, Durham.

BIRDS AS OMENS

SIR,—Like your reader "C" of Hereford I was greatly interested in Major Jarvis's remarks about birds as omens.

of them about 1670, and still belonging to that family, is said to have once had attached to it one of those beings who, in return for food (traditionally a dish of cream) would do the household work in the night. He was known as the Hampson Dobbie and is said in the end to have met another of his kind called the Bruntsha Hobby with the result that they killed each other.

Here we have two such beings



(Left) THE CHEESE-PRESS
TO-DAY AND (above and right)
IN THE FARM-YARD

See letter: *The British Way of Life*

"Grenadier" has never been dropped. These two battalions are now the senior battalions of the 4th Bombay Grenadiers.—A. D. ILIFF (Lieut.-Col.), Field, M.E.

FREAKS OF THE COCONUT PALM

SIR,—The graceful coconut palm in Ceylon has, as a general rule, an unbranched columnar stem, with a frond of leaves on top, although it is not uncommon to see a palm bifurcating in the middle or near the top of the trunk, showing two branches.

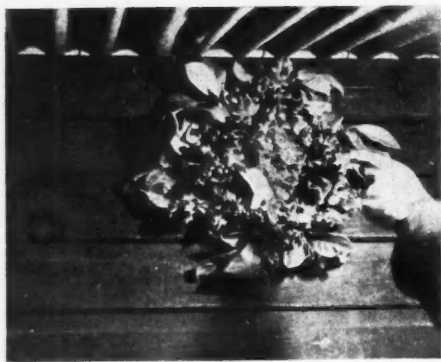
But here is a palm (found in a coconut estate some miles north of the town in which I live) in which there are no fewer than six branching stems, with four crowns of leaves.

Another interesting freak of the palm is the curious phenomenon revealed in the second illustration. Usually the palm is propagated by sowing the nut in the husk in a nursery bed, and then transplanting it. But here is a precocious coconut seedling which has germinated on the palm itself straight away from its flowering spathe, which had to be cut down in order that its queer behaviour might be photographed.—S. V. O. SOMANADER, Batticaloa, Ceylon.

THE BRITISH WAY OF LIFE

SIR,—Mrs. Villiers-Stuart echoes the thoughts of many of your readers when she writes that something should be done in the future towards presenting in tangible form the British Way of Life. In the past little has been done to illustrate in an intelligent fashion the life and work of the folk who have left us our British traditions. Museums we have in plenty, but only in a few of them do we find a presentation of historical material that would help us, and our visitors, to an understanding of the many aspects of our national culture.

COUNTRY LIFE has continually put forward suggestions that would lead to the creation of historical collections presented in a way that would educate and inspire. Its editorial and correspondence pages have been, in no small measure, a means of keeping alive, in these dark days, the appreciation of our country's traditions and all they have given us in architecture, art, and literature. Unfortunately such appreciation is only felt by the few; yet the material that reflects the national spirit is around us all in profusion. What can be done in the future to make folk, and especially the generation on the threshold of life, conscious of their national culture?



A WREN'S NEST IN A NURSERYMAN'S SHED

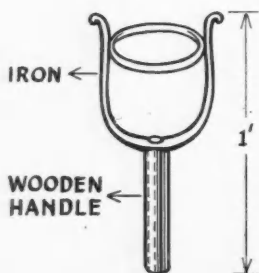
See letter: *In a Holly Wreath*

called Hobbie and Dobbie respectively. Then there is another being of the same type called Lob-lie-by-the-fire, so that apparently the three names Hob, Dob and Lob all have the same sort of meaning.

I suppose that such creatures were probably half-witted boys.—R. C. SIMPSON (Lt.-Col.), *Roseville, New South Wales.*

AN IMPLEMENT IDENTIFIED

SIR,—I am enclosing a rough drawing of an agricultural implement—at



A 19th-CENTURY FARRIER'S HORSE-GAG

See letter: *An Implement Identified*

least I presume it to be one—which I picked up on a salvage dump in a small village in Hereford. I have made enquiries locally but have been unable to find out its use. I wonder if you could help me. It is about 1 ft. in length, with a wooden handle, and appears to be iron wrought.

Wishing COUNTRY LIFE all success—I obtain it fourth hand these days!—A. C. SCARAMANGA (Capt.), *Norfolk.*

[Mr. F. C. Morgan, Librarian and Curator of the Hereford Public Library, Museum and Art Gallery, has

kindly answered our correspondent's enquiry as follows: It is a farrier's horse-gag of the nineteenth century. We have one exactly like it in this museum, and also several others in varying patterns. The gag was inserted between the teeth, turned upright to force the mouth open and a pill could then be put by hand right into the animal's throat.—ED.]

IN A HOLLY WREATH

SIR,—One day in March, my neighbour, a nurseryman, had one of last Christmas's holly wreaths returned to him. It was sent so that he could re-cover the frame.

Busy at the time, he hung it on a nail in his tool-shed, and since he also uses this as a general office dozens of people come and go all day. A lean-to shed of galvanised iron is built against the side of the shed so the wreath was entirely in the dry and well sheltered.

One day my friend called me to see this wreath with a wren's nest neatly constructed in the centre.

In two days, without calling in a select committee or debating for hours or days on a reconstruction scheme, Jenny Wren had found the site, staked a claim, and was well on with the construction. On that day I took this photograph. The wrens have shown no sign of deserting their home, in spite of all the spring activity, in the midst of which they have built.

I visited the garden on May 13 and found several small heads with large broad beaks peering at me. The hen fed one while the vicar and I watched from within two feet of the nest.

For the last three years wrens have built in the fence just across the orchard. This year there is no nest there.—J. HANSFORD, *Yeovil, Somerset.*

CHAIR WITH HIGH NARROW BACK

SIR,—I also possess one of these chairs which I understood were known as rout chairs and date from the crinoline epoch, presumably to provide a modicum of repose without exposing the wearer's ankles.—FRANCIS EDWARDS, *Brighlands, Reigate, Surrey.*

"ADVENTURE SCHOOLS"

SIR,—I wonder if there is a school more remote than that of Lounges Knowe—or Windyhough, to give it its more popular name—in the upper reaches of the river Coquet, in Northumberland. Its wild, though charm-

ing, setting, amid a bevy of billowy hills, might well be the envy of many schools in our more densely populated towns and cities. Yet it is doubtful whether their scholars would appreciate the long and rough trudges to reach it, even with the added incentive of having miles of Cheviot hills for playground. To this lonely school come the children of the shepherds of Upper Coquetdale as far as the Border. There are fewer than a dozen scholars usually, and to some of them it means six or more miles of real rough going, where houses are seldom less than two miles apart. The tiny school at Lounges Knowe (the spelling used to be



THE TINY SCHOOL AT LOUNGES KNOWE

See letter: *"Adventure Schools"*

Lounges Knowe) was opened in the summer of 1879. Before then education in that remote corner of Northumberland had been carried on for many years by means of the "Adventure schools," a very interesting and, it is said, very effective method. It was customary, before the erection of the school, for the shepherds to engage a teacher, either at a fixed salary, or one who was willing to take the risk of earning a livelihood by charging 3d. per week for each child, and boarding with the parents. The teacher lived as one of the family, and his stay at each house depended as a rule upon the number of scholars; thus if there were three he would stay three weeks before passing on to his next call, and his pupils, providing the distance was not too great, would accompany him to the next sheiling.

At one period there were three of these "Adventure schools" running simultaneously in Upper Coquetdale. That, of course, was in the days of larger families.—JOSEPH DUREY, *Forest Hall, Northumberland.*

MORRIS DANCES AT WHITSUNTIDE

SIR,—On the chance of your readers being interested, I send the enclosed photograph which I took in 1939 at the town of Bampton, Oxfordshire, on Whit Monday, when I happened to be driving my sisters round the lovely Cotswold countryside, and we arrived at Bampton to find the morris dancers "occupying" the place! They dance in and out of most of the gardens of the district, and are a most picturesque sight in their white suits with garlands round their ankles and hats. The fiddler (back to the camera) was quite an old man. At the back of the team was the clown in patterned jacket and trousers, whose role seems to be to revive any flagging energy on the part of the dancers! I believe the right to take part in this morris dancing is jealously confined to certain families, and handed down from father to son.—OLIVE HAWKES-CORNOCK, *Moneens, Budleigh Salterton, Devon.*



THE WHITSUNTIDE DANCERS OF BAMPTON

See letter: *Morris Dances at Whitsuntide*

FLOWERS FOR SHOREDITCH

SIR,—I am writing to ask whether any of your readers whose gardens are not wholly given over to vegetable growing during the war period might have any flowers to spare during the summer months. Shoreditch is a very drab district indeed, and the large numbers of children from surrounding streets who visit the Museum in their leisure time and in school parties respond enthusiastically to any displays of flowers we are able to arrange and very much appreciate these glimpses of beauty.

In view of the great focus upon education at this moment, and the honour which Her Majesty the Queen paid us in visiting the Museum on May 10, I wondered if some of your readers may feel able to help us in this way.

I shall be only too glad to refund any postage which may have to be expended in sending the flowers to the Museum.—M. HARRISON, *Acting Curator, The Geffrye Museum, Kingsland Road, E.2.*

MONMOUTH HOUSE, RINGWOOD

SIR,—Many of your readers interested in historical or archaeological survivals may like to see a photograph of Monmouth House, which stands by



WHERE MONMOUTH WAS PRISONER

See letter: *Monmouth House, Ringwood*

the roadside on the outskirts of Ringwood, Hampshire.

Here it was that the ill-fated James, Duke of Monmouth, was confined for a short period after his capture in a ditch on Shags Heath, Dorset. After his disastrous defeat at Sedgemoor, Somerset, on July 6, 1685, he fled, with a few of his chief supporters, eastward in the hope of escaping from a seaport.

It was, according to Macaulay, from this house that he addressed to his uncle, James II, his abject letters pleading that his life might be spared. With hundreds of his followers he paid for his rebellion with his life.—CLIVE HOLLAND, *Gerrard's Cross, Buckinghamshire.*



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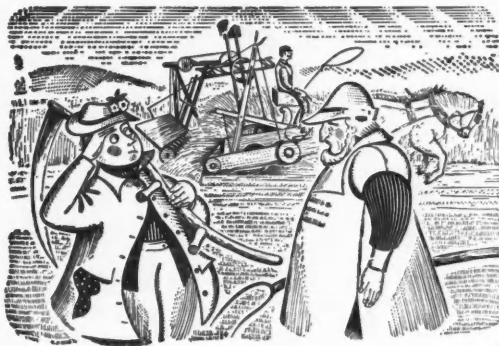
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AND SO, indeed, it must have seemed to those countrymen of nearly a century ago whose incredulous eyes witnessed the beginnings of mechanised farming; whose ears, accustomed to the quiet rhythm of corn going down before the scythe, now rang with the rattle of strange contrivances. On the land, as in other spheres of human activity, the machine had come—to stay. But, however great its efficiency, inclement seasons and poor markets can still make vain the farmer's labour . . . It is upon a sympathetic understanding of his problems that the Westminster Bank, ever since its foundation in 1836, has based its service to the farmer—an understanding born of long experience and an unusually close connection with the rural communities in this country.

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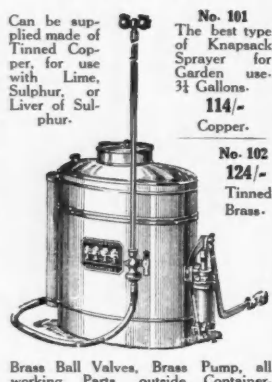
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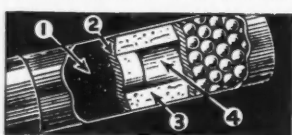
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FARMING NOTES

AN INCREASE IN STOCK

CAPTAIN EDWARD FOSTER, who is one of Shropshire's leading farmers, has been airing his views on calf rearing. He recently gave a wireless talk on the question "Where are our stores coming from?" His answer is that we must rear them ourselves and rear them more economically than we have so far managed to do. At the present moment there are probably not a great many calves of any type worth rearing that are going for slaughter, but in the autumn and early winter, when the selling price of milk is high, the markets are again likely to be over-supplied with calves that ought to be reared. Thus there will be all too few store cattle, either dairy heifers or beef stores, in two or three years' time when we shall have more leys and more productive grazing to carry an increased head of stock. I have made the point before in these notes, but I feel that it cannot be over-emphasised. Captain Foster mentioned that his Shropshire War Agricultural Committee has been rearing calves on a farm they have in hand, and the results are very satisfactory.

THE most suitable method in the beef-rearing districts of England and Wales is to rear them for a start on the cow, changing over to the proprietary foods as soon as the calf is old enough to eat well. In this way anyone who takes an intelligent interest in his work can easily and successfully rear five, often many more, to the cow. Land girls do this calf-rearing job well, and on several farms they have been put in sole charge with good results. It is a job that needs learning, and, if the War Agricultural Committees can demonstrate the more economical methods, they should arrange short courses where those who want to get some tuition can go and get the hang of things before they launch out on anything but a modest scale.

ONE change in the store cattle trade during the war is the increased demand in the autumn. We used to have a keen demand in the spring as soon as the grass came and nearly always a slump in the autumn. In the last year or two there has not been so much grass, but cattle have been wanted in the autumn to convert the large quantities of straw into manure. This trend, which is likely to persist for some years, has given the trade stability and it should increase the confidence of breeders, especially those in the upland districts, who have reseeded some of their top land and can now support a bigger number of stock.

IT will not be long now before we start haymaking. A dry time in April and early May has not given much bottom growth. Cuts will be light in many parts of the country. Even so it is a mistake to leave the hay crop to get over-mature waiting for more bulk to grow. If it is hay-making weather and the grasses are coming into flower the mower ought to go in. Most of us have plenty of straw on our farms, and it is not bulk so much as feeding quality that we shall want in our hay next winter. Let me repeat the tip about salting early hay. A sprinkling of ordinary agricultural salt at the rate of 20 lb. for every cartload put on to the stack does check fermentation when the hay is being put up on the green side; that is when we might consider it three-quarters dry. If there is a lot of clover the 20 lb. could be increased to 30 or

40 lb. Agricultural salt is cheap and cattle benefit by having some salt with their hay in the winter. Salting is not a panacea against heated stacks but I have found that it does help to save a day's drying, which may be important when the weather is catchy. Moreover, if the hay gets really dry before it is carted, much of the clover leaf, which is the most valuable part of the crop in protein, gets broken off and lost on the way to the stock.

MR. VERNON BARTLETT, who represents Bridgewater as an independent in the House of Commons, does not pretend to be an expert agriculturist, but the Farmers' Club found a good deal of interest in his remarks to them. It is perfectly true that if agriculture's spokesmen consist entirely of what he described as "the jovial landowner who rides well to hounds, who knows a good deal about the land and whose wife is good at opening bazaars," agriculture will suffer every time. As Mr. Bartlett said, "Your agricultural Members of Parliament will always be out-voted by other Members of Parliament from the great cities and great industrial towns and you will be a disgruntled community convinced that no one understands you or wants to give you a square deal."

THE important matter is to get the ordinary man and the ordinary Member of Parliament to understand what a vigorous agriculture can mean to the country. Mr. Bartlett sees signs of real awakening of understanding. More people are thinking about nutrition, which arouses the consumers' interest in the problems of the producer. There is a conviction that we can have freedom from want, and that conviction must help to bring prosperity to farmers all over the world. For years to come political and economic difficulties in many parts of the world should encourage manufacturers to appreciate the importance of the only possible market for a lot of the goods they produce, namely, the farmers and farm-workers of their own country. This should mean that while the housewife in the city will have developed a better understanding of the value of fresh milk, vegetables and fruit in the dietary of her family, her husband, working in the factory, will have developed greater interest in the prosperity of agriculture as his principal market.

INDEED it is on these lines that some of the most intelligent leaders of the farming community are now working. The other day I heard Mr. Knowles, the President of the N.F.U., speaking about the service which agriculture can be expected to render to the industrial community. The N.F.U. and the trade unions representing the farm-workers have now come into closer concord, and through the workers' unions the Trades Union Congress can be convinced of the value of fully productive agriculture in the general business structure of the community, a big step forward will have been taken. The Federation of British Industries, representing employers, has also adopted a friendly, if rather distant, attitude towards agriculture. Their eyes are mainly on the export market, yet there is no particular virtue in striving to develop at all costs markets in the Argentine and China, when sound business would dictate the expansion of the home market as the first basis.

CINCINNATUS.

THE ESTATE MARKET

RECENT LARGE SALES

MORE than ever the market is tending to become the arena of the big buyer. From the standpoint of first-rate farming it is, of course, generally reckoned a good thing to see extensive landed properties sold in their entirety, instead of being broken up. The latter course may place holdings in financially weak hands, whereas the investor or the agent private buyer who intends to acquire himself of all that is implied by the expression "residential and agricultural" will probably bring a good deal of enterprise and new ideas to their management, and can command the essential requisite for their realisation. Recent sales of large property have included an executor's disposal of Etonwood, 668 acres near Winchester, for £25,000, to a Birmingham buyer, and Bradenstoke Manor, Purton, and other Cotswold properties, some of considerable acreage.

DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS

OPPORTUNITIES for tenants to bid for farms are afforded by the coming offer of over a square mile of farms in and around Tenterden; and in one or two West Country offers. The large farmer may have to compete with the investor for such holdings as one of 168 acres, between Wokingham and Reading, for Messrs. Knight, Frank and Rutley emphasise the latent building value of the Arborfield main road frontages. Similar stress is laid by other firms in offering farms, and it will be interesting, if possible, to see how far the still waiting Uthwatt and other Reports affect the judgment of purchasers. Development rights have hitherto helped up the price of farms wherever there have been long frontages near populous centres. The past few months of discussion, with voluminous suggestions from organisations purporting to protect proprietary interests, have not done much to clarify the position.

A PARK LANE MANSION

ONE of the rare important transactions in London property can be announced. It is the sale of the freehold No. 18, Park Lane, with vacant possession. The buyer is a client of Messrs. Collins and Collins, and the vendors were represented by Messrs. Rawlence and Squarey. Previous owners of No. 18 were Mr. Whitaker Wright, and afterwards, Sir Bernard Eckstein. The house is one of the half-dozen great mansions overlooking Hyde Park, at the Piccadilly end, and it is magnificently decorated and has some exceptionally rich oak and mahogany carving and panelling.

THE BROCKLESBY ESTATE

THE EARL OF YARBOROUGH is about to dispose of more of the outlying parts of his Brocklesby estate. One of the seven large farms has a richly panelled 17th-century house, and the 2,120 acres, to be submitted by Messrs. Jackson Stops and Staff, include 230 acres of the scientifically afforested Brocklesby woodlands. It is mentioned that as the land lies along the Humber it would be suitable for factories.

VARIATION IN VALUE

SO many elements enter into the estimation of the market value of farms that a very careful and exhaustive study is necessary to determine the fair price to be paid for them. The old-standing tenant, ready to bid for his holding if it comes into the market, may be paying much less than the present-day rental value, having got a remission in a bad season and never having gone back to the original rent, which in any event was

probably lower than would be obtainable to-day. Outgoings vary greatly and need as much consideration nowadays as ever they did, but, like the rent reserved under the tenancy agreement, they are known quantities, and give no trouble as a basis of calculation. The real problems are the state of the holding, the quality of the land and how it has been cultivated, the condition of the farm-house and buildings, and the probable amount of the tenant-right. Proximity to markets, measured not merely in mileage but transport facilities, is another material factor, and the fact that early or immediate possession can be had often ensures competition from farmers who are willing to move a long distance, and it is also attractive to some investors. In the last few days a Lincolnshire farm of nearly 460 acres has changed hands at £42,000, while, at an auction of farm land in the Midlands, nearly 680 acres, with the right of entry this year, realised rather under £10,000.

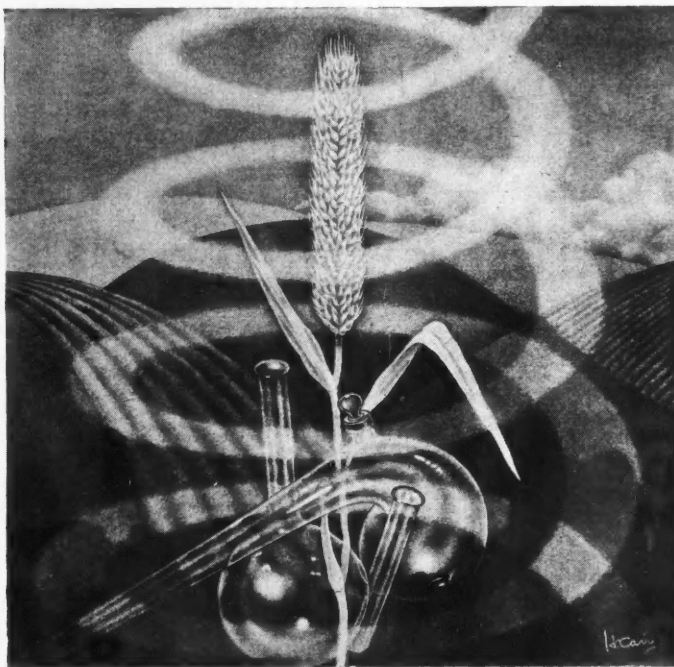
EXPERT ADVICE

ACREAGE in itself is no guide to the market price, and the only prudent course for a would-be buyer is to make a detailed inspection of any farm that is for sale, and in addition to weigh up the favourable or other characteristics of the district and, if he does not know the locality, to get local expert help in the valuation. It may be, as in a recent instance, that the expert deprecates a purchase, but to complain of having had to pay a fee for his advice which may have obviated loss and disappointment, is comparable to a complaint by an accident policyholder that he gets nothing for his premiums. An expert valuation is a species of insurance.

"SELF-CONTAINED"

AT the first glance there seems a certain inconsistency between the war-time tendency towards sharing all sorts of experiences and necessities, and the outcry that "self-contained" accommodation is the only tolerable thing. From time immemorial Londoners of the less affluent type have shared house-room. Tenants of houses have sublet rooms or floors and have thereby been able to secure for themselves and their families such space as they needed or at any rate could afford, and it is safe to say that even two or three families have found it possible to live as joint occupants in small houses, and to get on amicably together. By modern standards the conditions left much to be desired, but tested by experience the results were by no means unsatisfactory. "There was not," says one who has managed such property, "much privacy, and there was undoubtedly no bathroom, and usually no water supply or other conveniences, such as a sink, on any floor except the basement, and the only means of cooking consisted of a portable oil-stove. But, with a little goodwill and give and take, the sub-tenants got along very well one with another, and the rents were low, and the occupants brought up large and healthy Victorian families on very low wages and often in very precarious employment. Absence of the much-prized privacy was more than balanced by the mutual help which was so readily forthcoming, and, perhaps most significant of all, is the fact that the sub-tenants did not lightly face the trouble and expense of removals; on the contrary they stayed much longer than do the average tenants of a modern self-contained flat, even the cheap and strictly supervised 'municipal dwelling.'" ARBITER.

FERTILITY



AGRICULTURE today recognises that though fertility—the power of the land to produce abundant and healthy crops—is the result of many factors, it is inseparable from chemistry and the work of the research chemist. Fertility depends on light and air; on methods of cultivation; and on the presence in the soil of water; organic matter (humus); of bacteria; of nitrogen, potash, phosphates and calcium; and of small quantities of what are known as the minor elements. All these factors are inter-related so that all must be maintained at the right level if fertility is not to suffer. Nitrogen particularly is essential for all vigorous plant growth, and except for such special districts as the Fens, the soil of Britain is nitrogen-starved. It is important to note that nitrogen is released by the decomposition or disintegration of organic matter. In the past all sorts of methods were used to obtain it. It was extracted directly from waste products, or recovered in the form of sulphate of ammonia as a by-product of coal. Then came the great chemical discovery of how to combine the nitrogen released to the air with hydrogen from water to form ammonia. Nitrogen applied to the land as an inorganic fertilizer enables heavier crops to be grown, and therefore more vegetable matter to be ploughed back. Heavier crops make it possible to feed more stock, which means more dung. In other words the element released from organic matter is applied inorganically, but then passes back again to the soil through plant or beast as organic matter. The "fertilizer" of this season supplies more dung or humus next year. Fertility is a cycle in which the products and processes of Nature and the skill of the farmer are inseparable from chemical research and the products of the chemical industry.





"If ifs and ands were pots and pans" . . .

. . . says the old nursery rhyme, "there'd be no work for tinkers." And if every child had a real home and loving parents, there would be no work for us. Unfortunately there are still only too many children being badly treated or otherwise in need of wise and loving care. Since war began we have accepted 10,000 children, each one of them sorely in need of our help. Our picture shows just a few out of all those thousands. Will you help us to keep them happy and open our doors to others? 10/- will keep one for a week.

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NEW BOOKS

AN ESTIMATE OF HUGH WALPOLE

Reviews by HOWARD SPRING

ALREADY, while he was still alive, a book was written about Hugh Walpole, and now that his work is finished we shall, I imagine, have another examining and summing up of his con-

tribution to English letters. The mere bulk of his work makes this almost inevitable, for there are those who argue that prodigality, if not itself a sign of genius, is at any rate one of the ingredients to which other things must be added. I do not myself think that this is so. The most we can say is that some men of genius are prodigal and some are not; and this, of course, is virtually to say nothing.

It may with equal truth be argued that many a writer who, with care and condensation, with thought and labour, might have achieved a high level of excellence, allows much to slip through his fingers because of his helter-skelter passion to produce, produce, produce—all the time and at all costs. This passion in time tends to make work mechanical, however much the skill of a practised writer may conceal the fact. It was this which caused much of Arnold Bennett's work to be deplorably below the level of his own best achievement; and it was this which, as I see it, enormously weakened the work of Hugh Walpole's later years. In my view his earlier novels are his better novels. All that preceded the "Herries" books is better than Herries and than the books he was writing alongside these.

NICHOLAS HERRIES

A reading of his posthumous unfinished novel *Katherine Christian* (Macmillan, 10s. 6d.) does nothing to make me alter this view. In *The Bright Pavilions* we were introduced to Nicholas Herries, who survives into this present romance, reaching the age of nearly a hundred, with other generations of Herries growing up around him. The description of the manner of his death raises acutely the question of the romantic methods that Sir Hugh Walpole had fallen into.

One night, this old man, lying in the four-poster with his wife, who was so much younger than he, started up, got out of bed, and "it was then as though someone had thrown himself on Nicholas, for he started back, swerving, then pushed the white hair from his eyes, stamped his foot, and stretched his arm as though in sword movement."

Now I ask myself what his wife, still a fairly able-bodied woman, would have done on seeing her blind and almost centenarian husband behaving in this fashion; and I answer that she would swiftly have been out of bed after him, that she would first have called help, and then would have laid her arms about him and tried gently to persuade him back to bed.

But Sir Hugh is out for a great

dramatic and romantic moment, and the wife just sits there in bed and watches while Nicholas draws "himself up to his great height, his shift rising above his navel." He is remembering a great moment of his youth

when he saw his loved one killed, and himself slew his enemy. There on the bedroom floor he goes through it all again.

"Then it seemed he had someone in his arms. He swayed on his feet. He raised himself to tiptoe as if he were lifting a body. 'Ugh!' he cried. 'Ugh!' Then, his white head thrown

back, the cords in his neck strained, his knees bent and then straightening, his whole giant height extended, the vast muscles of his back standing thick and distended beneath his shift he cried 'Hulloa! Hulloa! Hulloa!' and again 'Hulloa! Hulloa! Hulloa!' then moved as though throwing something from him. He sighed, his chest heaved. He staggered towards the bed." And died in his wife's arms.

It seems to me most unlikely that a sensible woman like Rosamund Herries would sit watching this extraordinary performance, and just as unlikely that an old gentleman would in this fashion strain and leap on the bedroom carpet, re-creating something that had happened about three-quarters of a century before. He was far more likely to pass out quietly with a smile on his lips and a murmured word for his grandchildren.

"MAKING IT UP"

I hope I have not over-emphasised this one incident. I stress it because it is important to a consideration of much of Sir Hugh Walpole's writing. When you are telling a story to those candid critics, children, they may listen rapt, or they may say impatiently: "You're making it all up." That is their deadliest censure. Of course a novelist has to "make up" things, but there are ways and means of doing it. While we are reading of Mr. Wells's *First Men in the Moon* we are aware that this is a "made up" fiction, but the art is so great that there is that necessary "suspension of disbelief" which the novelist must secure at all costs.

The penalty paid by the over-prolific novelist, who must, whatever happens, produce his "daily dozen" at the desk, is that, unless he truly has the instinctive and unerring gifts of genius, he is content to "let it go" without wondering whether the reader will damn the work with this feeling that "it's all made up."

Finally, the book contains the worst simile of an incoming war that I have ever read. "On his right the sea rolled in like unfolding oilcloth." How the words smell of a cheap furniture store!

Mr. Claude Houghton tries more than most novelists, to get down below conduct to the springs of conduct. In his new book *Passport to*

KATHERINE

CHRISTIAN

By Hugh Walpole
(Macmillan, 10s. 6d.)

PASSPORT TO PARADISE

By Claude Houghton
(Collins, 8s. 6d.)

WAIT AND SEE

By Albert Thomas
(Michael Joseph, 10s. 6d.)

Paradise (Collins, 8s. 6d.) he uses the words "a psychological detective problem," and that describes most of his novels. It describes this one.

POWER OF ILLUSION

The "passport to paradise" is illusion, and even though it be a fool's paradise it is potent while the illusion lasts. But once the illusion is exploded and the cold light of reality shines on the situation: what then?

The book seeks to answer the question as it affected the lives of a group of people living in London. Markham, a self-made business man, and his wife Merle are the central characters. Markham's father, a man of some social standing, had married a "no account" Portuguese woman and he promptly died, leaving the boy to be brought up by his tawdry mother in tawdry circumstances.

Markham got out of this, made himself a position of wealth and power and fell in love with a girl employed at a fashionable club. But, remembering his father's *mésalliance* and its unhappy consequences, he would not marry her. "It would have involved the abnegation of every value inculcated by his uncle's influence. It would have involved surrendering what he wanted to be for what he was."

This is the weak point of the book, for Flora was a very different woman from Markham's mother. The mother is presented as a sort of Dago slut, while Flora has beauty and *savoir faire*. I don't imagine that Markham's business friends would have been so sensitive to social tones as Markham appears to have supposed.

But we must accept this situation. Markham turns down Flora and marries Merle who does not love him and whom he does not love. The marriage hangs together until Merle meets on the Continent a vital person named Jashvin who sweeps her off her feet and brings the marriage crashing down. Jashvin, she declares, is God. She was as bad as that.

Well, that was her illusion and her paradise. She was soon ousted from it, and how that happened and what were the consequences of her expulsion you may read for yourself. I need only say that you will find the discovery readable and exciting, even though this is by no means a book on the level of Mr. Houghton's best. But it has some attractive and convincing characters, the most notable being the man Dawes. This is a well-observed study of a man in whom illusion has perished. During the last war he believed all that the slogan-makers told him. He was a fanatical idealist. The new world, for him, was at the end of victory. And then he saw catchwords for what they are—words to catch fools. As suddenly as some men are converted to good, Dawes was converted to a cold nihilism in which he became predatory upon society. Yes, without a doubt Dawes is a fine study: to me, the one truly living creature in the book.

BELOW STAIRS

Mr. Albert Thomas, who is now butler to the Principal of Brasenose College, Oxford, has been in his time many things. He has been a farmer's boy, butler in a hotel, valet, café-proprietor, footman, publican, hotel manager, supervisor of a popular holiday camp and club steward. His book *What I See* (Michael Joseph, 10s. 6d.) tells of his experiences in all these capacities, of his rather wandering, restless life, which has now come to a stand at Oxford "in the midst of very learned, charming people, lovely

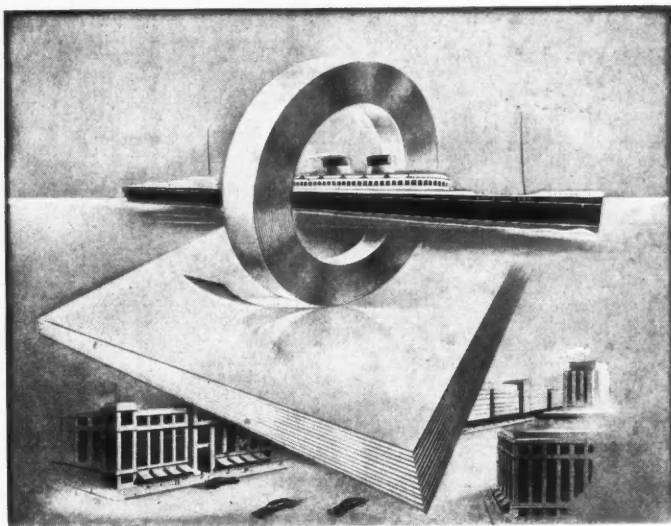
old silver dating back to 1610 to garnish my table with, wines as choice as man ever had in his charge."

Mr. Thomas reveals himself as a great admirer of the "quality," a distruster of women employers (with one notable fairy-tale exception) and as a man with a just sense of his own worth and of the worth of his job. "Admit it," he says, "we are an asset. We see that you are turned out correctly and that your bath-water is hot, the crease correct in your dress trousers, your vests pressed and the ladies' clothes looked after. Oh, yes, we are an asset."

I admit it, and I admit after reading Mr. Thomas's book that there are—or were: we are sadder and wiser now—too many people who took the asset for granted and treated it with little courtesy or consideration. Mr. Thomas has a good deal to say on that side of the matter and has suggestions to offer for the better regulation of service both in hotels and in houses.

A POET'S CRICKET

SOMEONE asked the Brains Trust the other day why foreign nations took keenly to other games but could not appreciate cricket. Various eminent persons gave various answers, but no one, to my mind, the right one, namely that it is necessary to grow up with cricket. This is clearly one of the reasons why Mr. Blunden loves cricket and writes about it so engagingly (*Cricket Country*, by Edmund Blunden; Collins, 8s. 6d.). I know not whether he comes from Kent or Sussex, for there are clues favouring either view, but I hope his is the county of Alfred Mynn. Which-ever it is his earliest recollections are of casual village cricket in a thistly field by a pond. Perhaps it is on this account that he has the warmest affection for Miss Mitford among all cricketing writers. He thinks highly of Nyren too, and among the moderns has a proper appreciation of Mr. Robertson-Glasgow, regretting only that he has not such rich and reeking personalities to describe as were to be found on Broad-halfpenny; but Miss Mitford comes first. Not that he agrees with her in her hatred of distinguished players from the outer world, the "ugly old men" as she calls them, "white-headed and bald-headed (for half of Lord's were engaged in the contest, players and gentlemen)" who wore silk stockings and made a business of the game. Far from it, for he has watched much first-class cricket and can beautifully recapture in words the memory of some fleeting moment that has pleased or touched him. I must quote Hendren's adieu. "He played his little innings of nimble neat shots, just had time for one of his old mighty bangs to the railings, was then bowled with not the slightest doubt in the world, turned at once to go with a shake of the bat at the shattered stumps—and having paced gaily twenty or thirty yards stopped, looked back rather sadly, waved them all goodbye." That is perfectly said and admirable likewise is his picture of "the immensely virtuous studentship" of Hutton in his great innings at the Oval and his long-drawn-out contest with O'Reilly. I take leave to love Mr. Blunden too when he gives vent to his romantic love for the names of cricketing clubs; I'Zingari (of whom he thinks George Borrow should have been secretary), the Free Foresters who suggest to him Robin Hood or the Forest of Arden, and, perhaps most intoxicatingly beautiful of all, the Blue Mantles, for whom played another poet, Siegfried Sassoon. His is a cricketing rather than a cricket book. It ranges over all sorts of things he has been fond of, and they are all wonderfully pleasant things. B. D.



"STREET and SHIP"—(Sheet and Strip)

A slip of the pen—or more correctly of the typist—yet a very happy slip ... don't you think? ... For in these post-war years—yet to come—light metal sheet and strip, to say nothing of other wrought forms, will be used more and more for both street and ship. Before the war the architect, builder, and ship fitter, had found

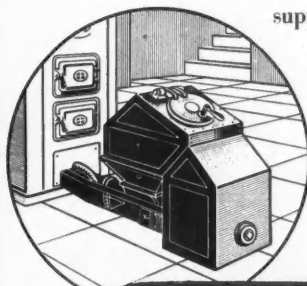
that light metals had a definite place in the street scene ... and constructors of great and little ships were discovering manifold uses for light metals in the maritime world. "STREET AND SHIP" ... it is a happy phrase. "SHEET AND STRIP" ... if in light metal—is a happy solution.



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Some DETAILS THAT MATTER



A four-seamed skirt in multi-coloured check, a plain green silk blouse with an Eton collar and revers, a flower-dotted scarf and a cowboy's metal-studded pigskin belt. All from Jaeger



Jaeger's dirndl skirt with wide studded belt and one huge pocket. The silk shirt blouse, also from Jaeger, is in a red and brown design on a golden-yellow background

DERMOT CONOLLY



Striped cotton shirt by Morley with stiffened polo collar and cuffs and arrow-shaped yoke. From Lillywhites. Erik's saddle-stitched felt with peaked crown

DENES

VISITORS from America and the Dominions are struck by the trim appearance of the women of this country after five winters of war and long clothes rationing. This, among other things, speaks well for the wearing qualities of British materials and the craftsmanship of the tailors, for most of these women are wearing old clothes most of the time. One new outfit is about all that can be bought each year and for the rest of the time it is the made-overs and tailor-mades that are seeing us through. The renovating departments of the stores and model houses are working to capacity with their limited staffs and it is advisable to think out winter alterations now and get yourself on the rota to be ready in time for the cold weather. The plain tubular frock with bright touches at the neckline and large important-looking pockets is going to run right through next winter. It is attractive, adaptable, easy to manage and the perfect companion for the severe dark coats that everyone has been buying this spring and will wear well into the winter.

These dark plain frocks are sometimes piped at the neck with corded ribbon or braid, freshened up by white piqué facings, cuffs and collars, by ties slotted through at the neckline, by dicky fronts and waistcoats in white piqué or marcella, in silk, velvet or brocade. There are hug-me-tights, hand-knitted in emerald or cherry wool in broad ribs or cable-stitch, that can be added when it is cold, boleros and jerkins in suède or in black or copper-coloured silk padded and lined with a bright odd piece from the bit-bag. Black or navy cloth or clerical grey suiting are the favourite materials for these frocks—they lend themselves to these little additions and are the simple kind of frock that can be evolved from old-fashioned tailor-mades or coats. All of them have narrow, neat skirts with tops that can be worn high or low, often buttoning across on a diagonal line with wide revers that can be fastened at varying heights and when done right up make them look like a suit jacket. They are then filled in with a scarf.

The pinafore frock is another style that has come back with the need to make-over. It is something that is easily negotiable with an old

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Moygashel's unicorn print, white on an azure or quaker grey ground, for summer frocks; and their spot the size of a halfpenny, which has tremendous chic for gloves and cravat or a tailored jacket

suit and an ingenious dressmaker. There are pinafore frocks with rounded apron fronts that fit up to the neck, or skirts attached to broad straps over the shoulders. These have gathered or flared skirts and are for the young people. For ampler figures, the pinafore frocks with sleeveless tops cut to a deep V in front and plain cloth backs cut like a suit jacket are easy to wear and attractive. They can be worn with all kinds of striped cotton shirts, woollen sweaters and blouses. Skirts are straight and pleated. Some of the nicest pinafore frocks I have seen have been in dark grey flannel with one big pocket on the right hip. They have been shown with very bright woollen sweaters or striped cotton shirts. The V neck, jerkin style pinafore frocks look well in a russet Harris tweed. I have seen a most successful one made from an old coat and suit, sometimes worn with a red and green Paisley woollen shirt and an emerald green snood—at others, with an oatmeal sweater. An old black cloth coat can look very chic made up as a plain short-sleeved jumper top cut to a deep V with a very plain skirt and worn with a series of bright-coloured fronts made from the best parts of tired printed crêpe dresses and with gloves matching.

THE kind of suit that buttons high enough in front to be worn in the summer without a blouse or sweater and with collars, cuffs and gloves, or gloves and a matching cravat, is another useful coupon aid. These suits, of the type called "dressmaker," look like jumper dresses and are one of the most adaptable of garments. They are best in dark, plain, soft-surfaced materials, buttoned to the waist. All the emphasis is thrown on the neck and the wrists by the lightest and brightest of accessories,

that can be changed as often as one likes. The fine Paisley-patterned woollens and rayons, the rayon with dots as big as a halfpenny in very bright colours on dark grounds, the propaganda prints in riotously mixed colours, odd pieces of corduroy, brocade, silk, are perfect for these accessories. Shops are full of striped cotton and crochet collars, yokes and fronts of all kinds, and a clever needlewoman with a good pattern for collars and gloves can furbish up her wardrobe indefinitely. A black suit with a cravat and gloves in white tie-silk dotted with black, or navy suit with these accessories in plum dotted navy looks very smart. The same suit can be worn with another set of collar and gloves in white piqué. In the autumn, these can be changed for a short, thick crocheted scarf with gloves to match.

SCARVES of all kinds are tremendously fashionable. For tailor-mades they are in every possible kind of material—squares, triangles and cravat scarves. These are worn round the head or round the neck in almost every possible way and are mostly very bright or chalk-white piqué or marcella. For evening, there are short splay chiffon and georgette scarves stitched all over with tiny velvet flowers or round winking sequins, or fringed. Sometimes these are made in narrow strips of brightly coloured ribbon faggot-stitched together, or crocheted from chenille matching a snood. You can tie your Jacquard propaganda square round the armholes with a point below the waist like a backless bathing-suit top and wear it as a waistcoat under your suit. Those who have a short length of furnishing chintz or linen left over can have a Lilla knee-length coat for the garden. P. JOYCE REYNOLDS.



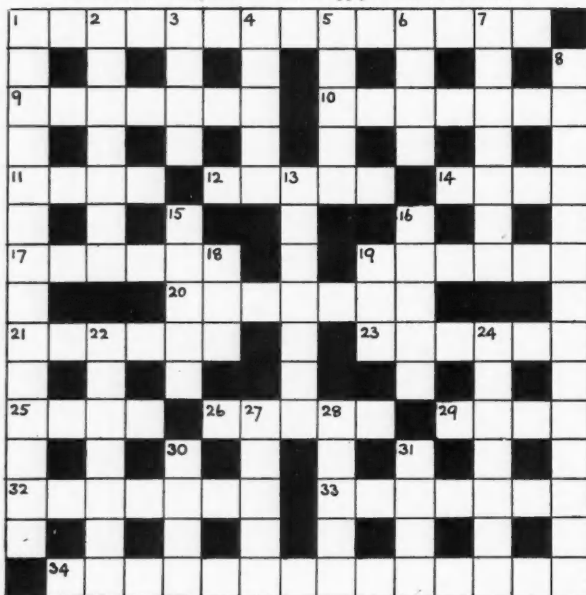
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good things to come

CROSSWORD No. 748

Two guineas will be awarded for the first correct solution opened. Solutions (in a closed envelope) must reach "Crossword No. 748, COUNTRY LIFE, 2-10, Tavistock Street, Covent Garden, London, W.C.2," not later than the first post on Thursday, June 1, 1944.

NOTE.—This Competition does not apply to the United States.



Name.....
(Mr. Mrs., etc.)

Address.....

SOLUTION TO No. 747. The winner of this Crossword, the clues of which appeared in the issue of May 19, will be announced next week.

ACROSS.—1, Timothy grass; 9, Eccentric; 10, Ocrea; 11, Issued; 12, Protocol; 13, Earwig; 15, Merchant; 18, Hungry; 19, Snares; 21, Signed on; 23, Tracer; 26, Otter; 27, Emollient; 28, French polish. DOWN.—1 and 18, The time has come; 2, Mocks; 3, Tangerine; 4, Yarn; 5, Recorded; 6, Short; 7, Shallot; 8, Armchair; 14, Runagate; 16, Contralto; 17, Melodeon; 20, Stretch; 22, Error; 24, Cheri; 25, Noah.

ACROSS.

1. One way of hailing the smiling morn (4, 1, 6, 3)
9. He slew the Old Man of the Sea (7)
10. Almost crazy (perhaps with neuralgia) (7)
11. To the player of this instrument there's apparently nothing in an O.B.E. (4)
12. Cause of the sleeper's unpopularity? (5)
14. Nibble (4)
17. Find a resting place (alongside the hearth?) (6)
19. What rain is? Fruit's the answer (6)
20. Lo, a mate! (anagr.) (7)
21. Fact or fancy, the agent's there! (6)
23. The sensitive plant (6)
25. A battleground wreathed in ivy (4)
26. Old port of Rome (5)
29. "— ye trample underfoot
Floods his heart abrim . . ."
—Kipling (4)
32. Stevenson wrote of its flow (3, 4)
33. Infix deeply (7)
34. Henry James's spiral twist? (4, 2, 3, 5)

DOWN.

1. One might take him for the official of habit and tradition (7, 7)
2. Fabricate (7)
3. A broken slab for churchmen (4)
4. Antique (5)
5. Put off, and freed thereby? (5)
6. A very long time for the ears to be concealed! (4)
7. Instruments for measuring angles (7)
8. Winter's cold comforters (3, 4, 3, 4)
13. Farthest off (7)
15. The vessel comes in sight at the rising of the pools (5)
16. Rightful (5)
18. Hidden in 6 (3)
19. One of the flock for Rameses (3)
22. Elk (7)
24. Boundless oxygen? (4, 3)
27. She begins to bind the wheat (5)
28. Natives of Eire (5)
30. The British one has grown wings (4)
31. Not laid in a packet (4)

The winner of Crossword No. 743 is

The Hon. Mrs. Parsons,
Little Gillion, Croxley Green,
Hertfordshire.

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